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Tallaght to host Summer Games ceremony page 2

Marlfield residents delight over parking rules decison page 6



Page 30
Faces of the community

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Students celebrate Culture Day

STUDENTS at St Mark's Community School in Tallaght celebrated 56 different heritage languages and 25 different countries through their Culture Day event, *reports James Roulston Mooney.* Sees page 24 and 40

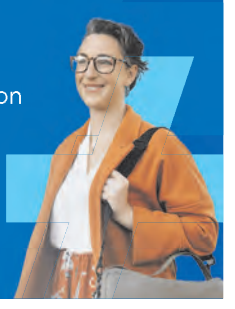
56 DIFFERENT HERITAGE LANGUAGES CELEBRATED IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Scheme aims to support teachers and students to make a real and lasting difference

16 schools to benefit from €48 million DEIS funding

16 SCHOOLS across Tallaght will be part of the new €48m per year DEIS Plus Scheme in September launched on Wednesday morning, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*
See page 12

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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, April 2, 2026. **Don't miss it!**



Tallaght Stadium to host opening ceremony of Summer Games

Local authority applies for licence to host Special Olympics ceremony

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE council has applied for a licence to host the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games at Tallaght Stadium this summer.

The council has put in an application for an outdoor event licence to host the opening ceremony of the Ireland Summer Games on Thursday, June 18, which is expected to comprise of "a procession, ceremony, speeches and entertainment."

The ceremony has been held on Whitestown Way once before in 2018 and is held every four years as part of the Special Olympics Ireland programme, but was cancelled in 2022 due to the pandemic.

2,000 athletes coaches and managers are understood to be taking part in this year's opening ceremony and tournament, and they will form the delegation's parade where teams and athletes will be introduced to spectators.

The competing parties will be complemented by 6,000 to 8,000 performers, staff, guests and audience members for the curtain raiser event, which is expected to last approximately four-and-a-half hours from the time of the opening of the gates until the show's conclusion.

Audience figures may vary as the planning of the event develops in the next few months.

Tallaght Stadium will mark the final destination of this year's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and the lighting of the cauldron marking the start of the games.

The run is a relay in which hundreds of members of An Garda Síochána, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, athletes and the community carry the Flame of Hope from county to county in Ireland to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes.

Special Olympics Ireland stated that the Law Enforcement Torch Run "symbolises inclusion, courage, and unity."

Speeches at the ceremony will be made by relevant politicians, sporting ambassadors, sponsors and patrons and entertainment will also be provided.

The Special Olympics Flag will be raised at the venue and the Games will be officially declared open before the event concludes.

12th Lock to Hazelhatch Grand Canal Greenway delivers valuable amenity

THE new 12th Lock to Hazelhatch section of the Grand Canal Greenway was officially opened marking a major step forward in enhancing sustainable travel and recreational amenities along one of the county's most significant historic corridors.

The project forms part of a wider effort to develop a high quality, accessible walking and cycling route along the Grand Canal.

Speaking at the opening, Mayor Pamela Kearns, who was joined by Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Energy Darragh O'Brien T.D., Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Waterways Ireland highlighted the importance of the project for both current and future communities.

The Mayor noted that "this greenway delivers a high quality, safe and accessible route along one of our most historic landscapes, improving connectivity between neighbourhoods and offering a valuable amenity for people of all ages.

"It forms part of South Dublin County Council's wider plans for the area — supporting the developing community at Clonburris, and the significant projects now underway at the 12th Lock."



HISTORIC CORRIDORS: Mayor Pamela Kearns, Minister Darragh O'Brien and Colm Ward (CEO SDCC) at the opening of the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch section

The Mayor also paid tribute to those who delivered the project, adding that "..the work of SDCC staff, especially our Economic Development Department, has been central to bringing this project to today's milestone."

Addressing those in attendance, CEO of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Lorcan O'Connor recognised the importance of the delivery of the Greenway as part of the overall greenway network from Dublin to the Shannon; "The delivery of this 5km section of Greenway from 12th Lock to Hazelhatch represents another important milestone in the delivery of the 130km Grand Canal Greenway from Dublin to the River Shannon. This high quality, safe and accessible facility is available for use by the local community, visitors and commuters. Thank you to our delivery partners in South Dublin County Council and Waterways Ireland for supporting the projects and achieving this milestone"

"The greenway will also support major future developments, including the growing community at Clonburris, ensuring that new residents have access to a high quality, low carbon travel and leisure route from day one. It strengthens the connection between local neighbourhoods, links key amenities and open spaces, and supports the Council's wider goals in health, wellbeing, climate action and placemaking.

Derelict houses go on market following compulsory acquisition

Four houses in St Maelruan's Park have been vacant and boarded up for several years

By **Ellen Gough**
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FOUR derelict properties in a Tallaght estate are coming on the market to be sold specifically to first time buyers or those who meet certain conditions.

The four houses at 24, 24A, 24B and 24C St Maelruan's Park have been vacant and boarded up for several years and were subject to a compulsory acquisition by South Dublin County Council in April 2024.

The houses are now to be sold in two phases, with "24B and 24C brought to the market first and 24 and 24A shortly after", according to estate agents DNG Tallaght, who are selling the properties on the council's behalf.

Council staff carried out some remedial works on the four houses in January 2025, funded by the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), including "the removal of attic conversions in two of the properties to comply with building regulations" and new concrete floors on the ground floor of 24A, 24B and 24C.

"The properties will be offered to First Time Buyers or buyers who meet the conditions of the Fresh Start Principle," the agent said.



BOARDED UP: The four properties in St Maelruan's Park have been boarded up for several years

According to SDCC's housing department, this principle is applicable to people that apply for State affordable housing schemes and have previously purchased or built homes but are divorced and have left the property/divested themselves of their interest in the property, those who have divested of their home "through insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings" or applicants that "previously owned, was beneficially entitled to, or have an interest in a dwelling in the state and that this dwelling, because of its size, is not suited to the current accommodation needs of the applicant's household".

Eligible purchasers may also be able to apply for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, which is available for the refurbishment of properties that have been made vacant for at least two years.

"The portfolio comprises a mid-terrace property, an end-of-terrace property and two semi-detached houses," the DNG Tallaght listing read.

"No. 24 is the original property on the terrace, constructed in the 1960s, while Nos. 24A, 24B and 24C were built circa 2006."

The layout is broadly similar across all four homes, with an entrance hallway, kitchen, downstairs WC, living room/dining room, three bedrooms and a main family bathroom.

Each house has a northeast-facing rear garden "of comparable size, with the exception of No. 24C which enjoys a larger garden area" and each has a front cobble lock driveway providing off-street parking.

"All four properties are currently in derelict condition and require significant refurbishment throughout" the listing said, adding that required works include "upgrades to electrics and plumbing, installation of kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, internal doors and general decoration".

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Amazing volunteers clean up litter along banks of Dodder

Shopping trollies, chairs, computer desk and baby buggies some of the items collected

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie



CLEAN-UP: Volunteers during the clean-up on Saturday and (inset) some of the items collected during the clean-up
Photos by Tommy Keogh

VOLUNTEERS from community groups in South Dublin took part in a clean-up event by the River Dodder in Tallaght on Saturday.

Members of community groups such as Dodder Action and Friends of the Camac collaborated for a joint clean-up effort on the banks of the River Dodder near Avonmore Road, Tallaght.

The Local Authority Waters Programme was also on hand to gather waste at the location.

The joint effort was led by Dodder Action volunteer Wladek Gaj, who rallied more than 20 people to Avonmore Road.

Friends of the Camac volunteer Tommy Keogh took part in the 90-minute effort to clean a small stretch of the banks and was shocked by the amount of waste found.

Tommy said: "I was amazed at the amount. It was all within a few hundred yards of the riverbank. We didn't go too far from where we started."

Rubbish of all sorts was collected including shopping trollies, chairs, a computer desk, baby buggies, fencing, a bed mattress and base, as well as several nitrous oxide canisters.

Twenty bags of general litter such as paper and plastic bottles were also collected by the volunteers during the joint effort.

"Without even going down on the riverbank, we picked up litter. It was a great morning, it had a great turnout…

"We were delighted to get [the large objects] out. To do so much work in a short time was absolutely amazing.

"I didn't think the problem would be that big in such a small area."

The ragtag team then made their way over to The Edge Coffee Shop, where they were treated to refreshments, courtesy of South Dublin County Council's Climate Action Team.

2,000 complaints and 240 fines issued over illegal dumping

A TOTAL of 2,000 complaints about illegal dumping and littering were received and investigated by the council in 2025, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Over 240 fines were issued by South Dublin County Council's Litter Wardens, while a total of 77 warning letters and notices were issued last year.

"SDCC utilises a variety of systems to effectively record, manage, and monitor environmental queries, complaints, and inspections," the council's director of climate action Teresa Walsh wrote in response to a question from Cllr Adam Smyth (FF) at the full council meeting on March 9.

Cllr Smyth had asked for a "report on litter and illegal dumping enforcement in 2025, including the number of reports or complaints received, the number of fines issued, and the number of warning letters issued and followed up".

There were 1390 litter enforcement complaints received and investigated by litter wardens last year, while waste enforcement officers investigated a further 40 complaints.

A total of 98 legal referrals – 94 for littering and 4 for illegal dumping – were also undertaken, as well as five directions under the Waste Management Act 1996.

A number of legal proceedings were initiated as a result of CCTV installations "at known dumping hotspots" around the county, including Kiltalown Lane and the entrance to Montpelier View in Jobstown, in accordance with the LGMA's Code of Practice.

"These installations were temporary and resulted in three legal proceedings being initiated," Ms Walsh said.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



FINES: 240 fines have been issued over illegal dumping

Road listed for works

BARTON Drive on the Grange Road in Rathfarnham has been listed for consideration for next year's road works programme.

Barton Drive has suffered damage over the years due to the strong usage and recent weather has exacerbated issues, leading to potholes which required fixes also.

Easter Bunny Hop

FETTERCAIRN Community and Youth Centre will host a Easter Bunny Hop on Thursday, April 2.

The event takes place at 2pm and also costs €2

The Echo Newspaper
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CONCERNS: JJ Kane uses Tallaght Village

Life may be changed for JJ if village plans go ahead

23-year-old with Down syndrome, autism and arthritis visits the village often

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A LOCAL mother and full-time carer has expressed concerns about the proposed changes to Tallaght Village and the impact they could have on her son's life.

23-year-old JJ Kane has Down syndrome, autism, three types of arthritis, spends most of his time in a wheelchair and visits the village centre often.

JJ attends a baking class, tends to a herb garden through Tidy Towns and attends the Cheeverstown High Street Hub, but his mother and full-time carer Fran fears that his life may be negatively affected by the proposed changes in the village.

Fran noted the proposed reduction of parking spaces in the village would lead to the spots being taken up more often and leave the pair in search of a space further out of the centre and facing a tougher walk in.

She said: "I need to be able to bring him to the hub but park outside so he doesn't have much walking to do because he hates using the wheelchair – he prefers using his rollator.

"But, having no parking, I'd have to park in the Priory or having to go up to where the courthouse is, it's just out of the way, and I suffer as it is – I have arthritis on my neck and my back – I'd have to push him on those paths alone up to the hub…

"…It's going to stop him from coming into the village, it's going to stop him from wanting to participate, because he's going to be in pain – he's always going to be in pain.

"I'm sure there's worse off than him in the area, there's older people too. It's going to impact everybody."

The preferred option for the village enhancement scheme in Tallaght proposes a new public plaza area at the junction of Main Street and Old Bawn Road, as well as no access for general traffic "to or from Main Street from The Greenhills Road/Main Street Junction" and a bus gate at the Greenhills Road junction to filter westbound traffic and improve bus reliability, according to proposal documents.

Access for residents, local businesses, deliveries, and visitors to the village and to St. Mary's Priory will be maintained.

Fran noted that there is "very little" that JJ can get involved in due to his situation and making it harder for him to get into Tallaght Village would potentially strip these away from him.

"To have these jobs is amazing for him, he loves when you say, 'you have to go and do your jobs', he loves when he's doing his bit of gardening and somebody beeps the horn and waves at him…

"…He loves that kind of banter and he loves being part of the village





Marlfield residents triumphant in challenge over parking rules

Four motions are passed at EGM preventing company implementing new rules

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie



SUPPORT: Marlfield residents at the EGM on Tuesday.

RESIDENTS of an estate in Kiltipper were triumphant in their challenge against new parking rules at the EGM in the Maldron Hotel on Tuesday morning.

Residents of the Marlfield estate located off Kiltipper Road passed four motions at an Extraordinary General Meeting, including one that prevents the management company, Kiltipper Property Management CLG, from implementing the new rules without residential approval.

The system had led to people receiving fines and had caused distress in the community, who were surprised that parking permits were being introduced.

All four resolutions voted on at the EGM were passed overwhelmingly, including increasing the management company's board of directors from two-strong to seven and the extension of voting rights for residents who are on payment plans over outstanding fees.

One resident who spoke to *The Echo* noted that the community effort stretched beyond the grounds of Marlfield.

They said: "Everything went really well, to be honest. It was quite unexpected. We had overwhelming proxies.

"South Dublin County Council was present…it was an overwhelming majority in favour of all four resolutions."

The two existing directors, including Chairman John Riordan are now expected to resign when the five extra board members take up their seats, as well as the company secretary.

These two upcoming vacancies will be voted on by the five incoming board members when they take their seats.

Marlfield's inhabitants received a letter from the estate management company on Wednesday, January 14, informing them that a new permit-based parking system would be introduced less than three weeks later, on Tuesday, February 3.

In the letter, it was stated that one parking permit per property would be issued to "all qualifying properties" that week and that a "limited" number of extra permits were available at a cost of €20 per second permit and €60 per third permit.

It was also noted in the letter that "permits would only be issued to properties whose service charge accounts are in good standing."

However, just over three months later, money taken out of residents' pockets as a result of this is now expected to be returned.

"People were still asking this morning, 'what's going to happen with the parking?', and they have charged people for permits.

"So now, all the money is going to have to be refunded back to them."

Citywise kids recognised for exceptional dedication at Lego League National Final

IN A spectacular display of innovation and collaboration, Citywise Education in Tallaght captured the prestigious Meta Connecting Communities Award at the FIRST LEGO League Irish National Final on Tuesday.

This esteemed accolade recognizes the team's exceptional dedication to using technology as a bridge to bring people together, reflecting months of rigorous preparation and creative problem-solving.

Their achievement stands as a testament to their hard work and their ability to articulate a vision where STEM serves the greater social good, making them a standout highlight of this year's competition.

The atmosphere in Dublin was electric as Citywise joined an elite group of 24 finalists, emerging from a record-breaking season that saw over 350 teams and 2,500 young people compete across 19 regional tournaments nationwide.

Supported by national sponsor Amazon, the event showcased the incredible spirit of the FIRST LEGO League, with Citywise embodying the core values of teamwork and gracious professionalism.

While the overall National Champions now prepare to represent Ireland at the European FLL Championships in summer 2026, the success of Citywise underscores the immense talent and community-focused mindset thriving within Ireland's youth STEM community.

Now celebrating its 10th year in Ireland, FIRST LEGO League has engaged more than 35,000 young people nationwide since its launch, with this year's programme alone seeing hundreds of teams participate in hands-on STEM learning.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated not only technical excellence in robotics and coding but also critical life skills such as collaboration, communication, resilience, and creative problem-solving.

This season's theme, UNEARTHED℠, challenged teams to explore the past, uncover hidden stories and artefacts, and use these discoveries to inspire innovative ideas for the future.

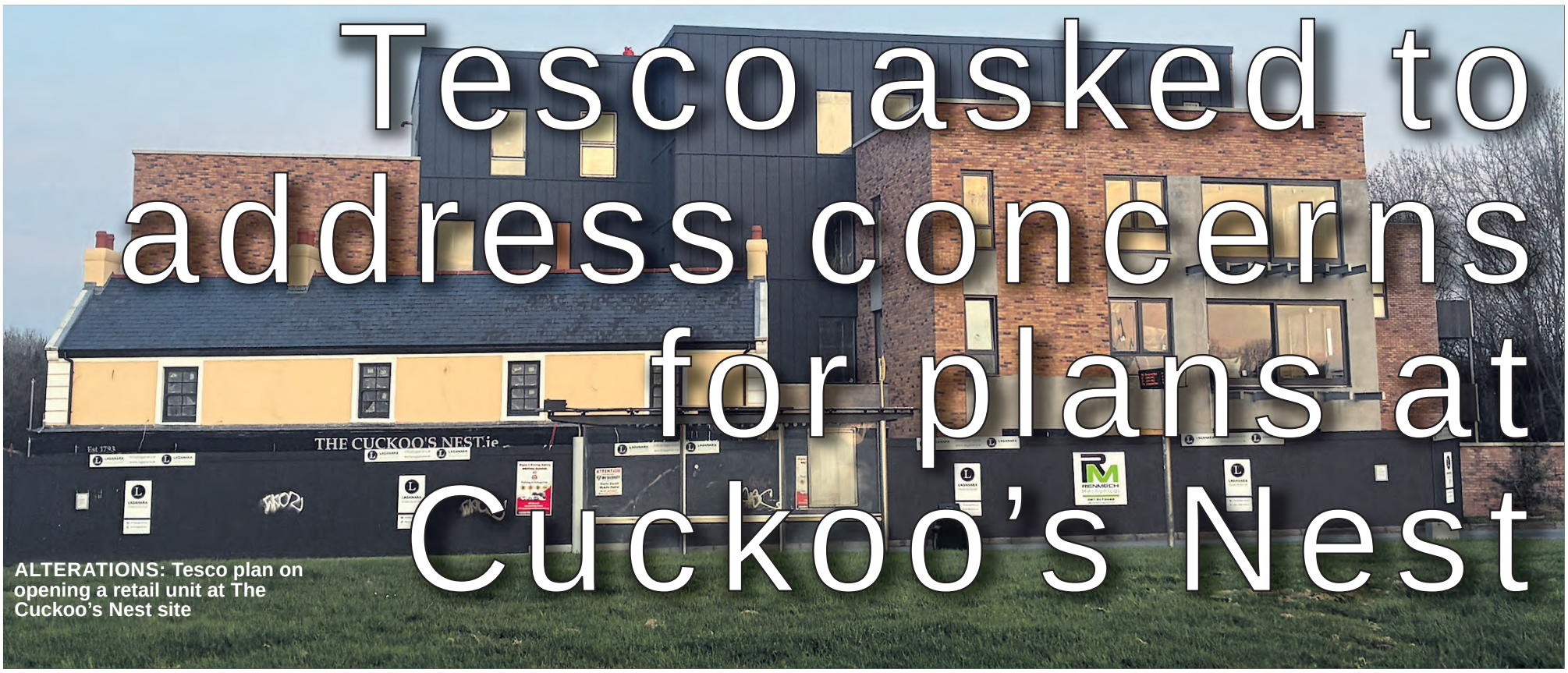
As the national sponsor of the competition, Amazon continues to support and champion this initiative. Joanne Reynolds, Community Engagement Manager at Amazon Web Services (AWS) in Ireland, said:

"It's incredible to see the level of creativity, teamwork and innovation on display.

"These young people are developing the very skills that will shape the future of technology and society. Amazon's continued role as national sponsor reflects our commitment to this programme and to empowering the next generation of thinkers, builders, and problem-solvers."



DEDICATIOIN: Citywise Team FIRST LEGO League Final winners of the Meta Connecting Communities Award are Mariam Muhammad, Omar Muhammad, Declan Nolan, Rudra Yadav, Oisin Hempenstall and Sean Hanley



ALTERATIONS: Tesco plan on opening a retail unit at The Cuckoo's Nest site

Tesco asked to address concerns for plans at Cuckoo's Nest

Supermarket chain waiting on a decision from council for alterations to retail unit

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

TESCO Ireland are awaiting a decision from South Dublin County Council for alterations to approved planning permission at The Cuckoo's Nest on Greenhills Road.

The supermarket chain submitted a new planning application in August 2025 for alterations to the retail unit as permitted under a previously approved plan, for the provision of an off-licence sales area of 21 sq m within the permitted retail unit.

Minor external alterations to the Greenhills Road (shopfront) elevation are also sought to include an automatic sliding entrance door, signage and vinyl window coverings and an external bin store and plant enclosure.

The approved development, still currently under construction, has retained and renovated the original front of the Cuckoo's Nest bar, with a new three and four storey extension to accommodate "public house use at ground floor, retail/shop local use (c. 283m2) also at ground floor, with 11 apartments overhead".

The council's planning department issued a Further Information request to the developers, asking that they remove internal illumination for "both the fascia sign and the projecting box sign", and to redesign the west-facing shop front window so that "not more than 25% of the window is covered by either vinyl wrap/signage and there is an improved connection with the public realm".

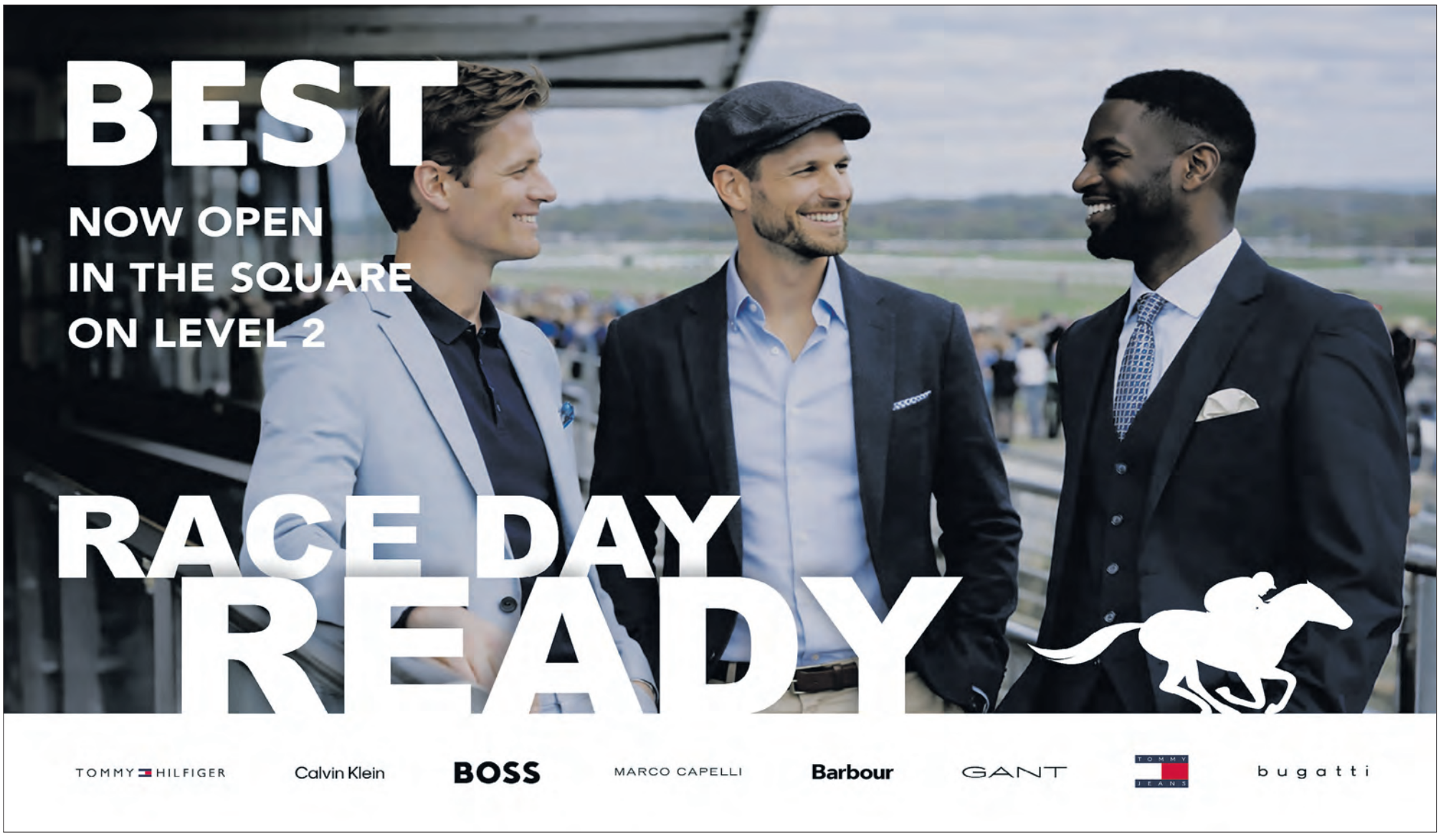
They also asked Tesco Ireland to address concerns from residents on the adjoining Temple Court apartments that fencing on the plant and bin enclosure would have an impact on natural light levels in the ground floor apartments, and to "demonstrate that it will not result in excessive loss of residential amenity for these residents".

In their response to the Further Information request, the developer agreed to redesigning the window coverings and that the "internal illumination previously proposed at planning application lodgement stage for both the shopfront fascia sign and the projection sign have been omitted and illuminated signage is no longer proposed".

They also included drawings to "confirm that the bin store and plant area have been designed to match the existing boundary wall height" and will not be visible above the boundary wall.

"There are no works proposed to the bin store area that would have any impact on the levels of natural light to the adjoining residents of the Temple Court Apartments," they said in the letter accompanying the response on Tuesday, March 10.

A decision on the alterations is expected from the planning authority by April 6, 2026.



court reports

tel: 4685350 email: news@echo.ie

Former principal described as 'sexual predator' by judge

Man (84) convicted of 17 counts of indecent or sexual assault

A FORMER school principal described by a judge as "a sexual predator" who abused young boys in their "formative years" has been jailed for four years, *reports Declan Brennan and Sonya McLean.*

Patrick Harte (84) was employed a teacher at Sancta Maria Christian Brothers school on Synge Street Dublin from 1967 to 2007, latterly as a principal.

This fourth set of prosecutions brings to 89 his number of convictions for sexual or indecent assaults of young boys.

After a trial at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court last December, a jury convicted Harte of 17 counts of indecent or sexual assault committed against boys in various date ranges between 1969 and 1986. Harte, of Glendown Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6, had pleaded not guilty to all charges and continues to deny any offending.

The eight victims in this case brings to 32 the number of boys abused by Harte. Harte does not accept the verdict of the jury and maintains his innocence.

Sentencing Harte on Wednesday Judge Martina Baxter said that the offences were repetitive and continued in "a brazen fashion".

She said they occurred in a classroom that had an atmosphere of "physical punishment and fear" and said the young boys were humiliated being abused in public in front of their classmates.

Judge Baxter commended the victims for coming forward and giving evidence during trial, noting that some of them travelled from abroad and others travelled from other areas of Ireland.

She described the victim impact statements provided to the court as "eloquent" and "poignant" and said they were a powerful reminder of how such traumas impact children.

Judge Baxter told counsel that she had received a letter from Harte.

She said it was "very inappropriate for a trial judge to be contacted by the accused".

She handed the letter to both prosecuting and defence barristers and said she does not intend to read it.

Garrett McCormack SC, defending, told Judge Baxter that Harte instructs, following a brief consultation this morning, that he wrote to her because he didn't get the opportunity to address her previously at the sentence hearing.



Judge Baxter said Harte had addressed her previously but at that time he spoke of the previous trials.

She said she has no concern with the other cases only the case that is currently before her and she said she has no intention of being addressed by Harte.

Judge Baxter said Harte was "in a trusted position" and "he exploited his position to abuse" the children.

She said the offences represented a "significant breach of trust" and there was "often a degree of repetition and pre-planning involved".

Judge Baxter said Harte had shown a "lack of remorse and contrition". She noted his previous attempts to address the court and said "in that brief interlude he tried to make reference to previous complainants" – complainants which were not involved in the current case.

She said Harte is very familiar with the court process and maintained in evidence before the jury that he never abused a child, despite the earlier convictions from the previous trials.

Judge Baxter said Harte has "no prospect of rehabilitation".

She noted that there was a change in legislation during the offending period which increased the penalty available to the court from a maximum of two years to one of ten years.

Judge Baxter imposed various different sentences and ordered that all of those sentences should be concurrent to each other.

The effective sentence is a prison term of four years.

She did not suspend any part of the sentence as she said: "there is no evidence of remorse or insight, no evidential basis to justify a suspended sentence".

Man facing drug charges undergoes treatment

A MAN facing drug charges who has undergone treatment successfully was handed a suspended sentence at Tallaght District Court, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Karl Jackson (24), with an address of Meadowbank Hill, Rathoath, Meath, appeared before court.

Garda Alan Sheridan told the court that on May 2, 2025, gardai approached a parked vehicle on Fettercairn Road, Tallaght.

A "strong smell of cannabis" was coming from the accused in the vehicle and gardai subsequently discovered €160 of cannabis, which Mr Jackson said was for "personal use."

The court heard Mr Jackson has 12 previous convictions, all for drug related matters.

Defence solicitor Ciara Ní Ghabhann said her client "spent considerable time in treatment", "completed treatment successfully", presented well in court and is working in a managerial position.

Judge John Brennan agreed with Ms Ní Ghabhann that her client has "turned things around" which took "courage" and noted that he is working in a good job and in a much better position today.

Taking into account mitigation, Judge Brennan imposed a six-month sentence suspended for 18 months with no need for a probation report.

Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme



Man (40) led garda cars and helicopter on high speed chase down wrong way of N7

A MAN who led garda cars and the garda helicopter on a high-speed car chase in Dublin has been jailed for a year by Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, *reports Natasha Reid.*

The court heard that Lee Hyland drove at speed the wrong way down a dual carriageway, causing other motorists to take evasive action to avoid head-on collisions.

The 40-year-old of Millrose Estate, Bluebell in the city was sentenced on Thursday, after pleading guilty to endangerment and dangerous driving at locations on the N7 on July 12 last.

The court was told that gardaí pulled over the Volkswagen Golf that Hyland was driving shortly after midnight. However, as the gardaí approached the car, he sped off again.

Gardaí pursued him, activating their blue lights and indicating for him to pull over.

However, over the next five minutes, he led them on a high-speed chase, breaking red traffic lights, mounting a footpath and driving the wrong way down the N7 dual carriageway on a number of occasions.

The garda helicopter was involved, along with patrol cars. However, the garda cars had to stand down their chase more than once when he did handbrake turns and began driving against the flow of traffic.

Footage taken from the helicopter was shown to the court, with the chase ending when Hyland got out of his car and attempted to flee on foot.

He was quickly apprehended and arrested.

The court heard that he had 22 previous convictions, including four for dangerous driving, along with several for having no licence and insurance. He was disqualified from driving at the time, having received a lengthy disqualification previously.

Judge Orla Crowe remarked on the amount of garda resources that had to be used on the night.

She noted that he had pleaded guilty only on his trial date.

She imposed an 18-month sentence and suspended the final six months for two years. She also disqualified him from driving for a further four years.

Football team to host charity match in memory of Fionn

Dedicated 15-year-old Knocklyon player passed away in January after a fight with cancer

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A CHARITY football match in memory of Rathfarnham teen Fionn Dooley will take place at St Colmcille's Secondary School in Knocklyon on Easter Saturday at 3pm.

15-year-old Fionn passed away on January 30, hours before he was set to turn 16 after a fight with cancer, and over €5.5k has been raised ahead of the match so far in his honour.

He played U16s football for his local side, Knocklyon United, and the team are set to host a charity match in his honour against Parkvale FC of Newtown, who he had also played for.

Fionn started his football journey with the Knocklyon side before moving to Parkvale FC and then later going back to Knocklyon.

Knocklyon United U16s coach Kenny Soper noted that the teen was "football mad" and was determined to stay a part of the side throughout his illness.

While battling cancer, the centre-half continued to train twice a week and even lined out for a match in December.

Soper said: "He just loved football, everything was football. After treatment, he'd be up at training, he just adored it!

"When he was with Parkvale, he won the Most Dedicated Player Award just before he got sick. He just loved it."

Soper previously told *The Echo* that the centre-half had a strong football IQ and commanded Knocklyon United U16s' backline with ease.

He complemented Fionn's tackling abilities as well as his leadership skills and noted also that he was a driven and determined player, always attentive in training.

Fionn was able to see several matches across Europe before he passed, including a Manchester United game and a Republic of Ireland fixture.

He also had travelled to Spain just over a week before his passing to see Real Madrid beat Monaco 6-1.

His love for football was felt at home in his teams at Knocklyon and Parkvale and the charity fixture is set to be an emotional game for the two sides.

"Obviously, there's a cross with friendships between the teams with various different schools and that.

"You're going to have approximately 30, 35 kids and Fionn would have touched every single one of them through football, playing with them week in, week out."

To donate ahead of the charity match in Knocklyon, visit the 'Charity Match in Memory of Fionn Dooley' page on gofundme.ie.

> **"He just loved football, everything was football. After treatment, he'd be up at training, he just adored it!**



FOOTBALL MAD: Fionn Dooley sadly passed away in January



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‘Unacceptable’ the number of children waiting on CAMHS

Over 60 children aged four or under waiting over a year for access to services

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE CAMHS situation in Tallaght and other areas has been called “unacceptable” as figures show more than 60 children aged four or under waiting over a year for access.

Councillor Niamh Whelan has criticised recent figures that show 62 children aged four or younger from Tallaght and other areas are waiting more than 52 weeks to access psychology treatments as part of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

The figure is recorded as of the end of January 2026 and is the largest of all areas in the HSE Dublin and Midlands Region and represents almost half of all 125 children in this age bracket awaiting primary care psychology treatments across the Dublin South West healthcare area.

Cllr Niamh Whelan noted that the new numbers show “a systemic failure” to look after one of the most defenceless sections of our population.

Cllr Whelan said: “[It’s] a systemic failure to provide timely care to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

“Early intervention is critical when it comes to mental health. Delays of this magnitude can have lasting impacts on a child’s wellbeing, development, and future.

“No child should be left waiting this long for help.”

33 children aged from zero to four are currently waiting between half a year and a year to access the same care in the area.

On top of the figures for very young children, 1,326 aged from five to 17 in Dublin South West are awaiting primary care psychology.

1,003 of these children from five and up are waiting more than a year to avail of psychology supports provided by CAMHS.

Just under 1,500 children in Dublin South West currently make up the backlog the service is dealing with.

Cllr Whelan called on health authorities to address this backlog and increase the staffing, resources and capacity of CAMHS so that children are not left waiting for supports they are in need of.

“We must treat this as the priority it is. Families are struggling, and children are being let down.

“Immediate action is required.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



ACCESS: The figure is a record as of the end of January

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Schools happy with €48m DEIS funding

Students in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Ballyfermot to benefit from funding

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

16 SCHOOLS across Tallaght will be part of the new €48m per year DEIS Plus Scheme in September launched on Wednesday morning at St Aidan's National School.

The new scheme will include St Aidan's NS in Brookfield, as well as Tallaght Community National School in Jobstown and Coláiste de hÍde in Tymon North Road, as well as 13 other local primary and post-primary schools.

The Government is committing €48 million annually to a new DEIS Plus Scheme and the DEIS Strategy to 2035, marking a significant step-up in addressing educational inequality across Ireland.

Additional teaching posts, full-time Home School Community Liaisons and new admisitrative deputy principals are among the benefits set to be delivered to schools under the scheme.

Tallaght Community NS Principal Conor McCarthy welcomed the new scheme when he spoke to *The Echo* after he attended the launch of the new scheme.

Principal McCarthy stated that the "overall reaction" of principals around the country to the new scheme is very positive.

Principal McCarthy said: "We are very happy with the supports that the DEIS Plus is going to include…we think it's going to have a really positive impact on children.

"We love that the new DEIS strategy is being reframed as a positive thing. That it is being seen as something that can unlock the potential for all the brilliant children that are in our schools.

"There's a lot of schools in West Tallaght that are going to benefit from this."

The principal credited those in West Tallaght and others who have worked hard to make this new strategy a reality.

The measures announced under DEIS Plus and the DEIS Strategy will deliver over 400 additional roles, including approximately 350 teacher posts, benefiting some 700 schools nationwide.

The scheme will aim to deliver increased funding and supports for teacher professional learning, additional community link works and free period products in all schools by 2027.

Other primary schools in Tallaght being placed on the new scheme in September include St Thomas Junior NS on Fortunestown Road and the Senior NS in Jobstown, St Anne's Primary School on Kilcarrig Avenue, Scoil Chaitlin Maude in Kiltalown, Sacred Heart Junior and Senior NS on Whitestown Drive, as well as Knockmore Junior and Senior NS and St Brigid's NS in Brookfield.



LAUNCH: Tallaght Community National School principal Conor McCarthy with students at the launch on Wednesday morning and (inset): Ministers and Principals at the launch

One primary school in Citywest – Scoil Aoife Community NS – will also become DEIS Plus.

Other secondary schools in Tallaght to be placed on the scheme consist of St Mark's Community School on Cookstown Road, St Aidan's Community School in Brookfield, Killinarden CS and Mount Seskin Community College in Jobstown.

The Minister for Education and Youth Hildegarde Naughton noted that "a strong evidence-based approach" was used to identify schools for the new scheme.

Minister Naughton said: "The DEIS Strategy to 2035 and the introduction of the DEIS Plus scheme will deliver a more responsive, evidence-based system of supports, reaching children and young people wherever educational disadvantage exists.

"These measures ensure that we are targeting resources where they are needed the most and support schools to make a real and lasting difference."

Nine schools are set to benefit from the new scheme in Clondalkin – seven of which are primary: St Peter's Apostle Junior and Senior NS in Neilstown, Neilstown NS, St Mary's Junior and Senior NS in Rowlagh, and St Bernadette's Junior and Senior in Quarryvale.

Collinstown Park Community College on the Neilstown Road and St Kevin's CC on the Fonthill Road are the secondary schools.

Six from Ballyfermot and its surrounding area will be placed on the scheme in September, four of these primary schools.

St Ultan's NS in Cherry Orchard, St Michael's NS of Kylemore Road, St Gabriel's NS on Ballyfermot Road and Our Lady of Wayside NS on Bluebell Road.

St Seton's Secondary School of Le Fanu Road and Convent Lawns, and Kylemore College on the Kylemore Road will become DEIS Plus.

One primary school in Goldenbridge, Inchicore will also go on the scheme – Goldenbridge Convent of Saint Vincent Street West.

The new Government strategy will be delivered through three phased implementation plans to 2035.

Echoopinion...

Fuel price cuts to ease pressure on families

FUEL price cuts have come to help ease the pockets of homes and families but only for a limited amount of time.

Mineral Oil Tax reductions of 15 cent per litre of petrol and 20 cent per litre of diesel have come into effect until the end of May, expected to lower the cost at forecourts around Ireland.

The fuel allowance period will also be extended by four weeks, giving households an extra €152 in supports.

However, costs were already high enough as it was and this will only serve to quell the rise we've seen in recent weeks, rather than deal with the fuel price problem as a whole.

Families have been facing rising costs on several fronts in the past few years, and fuel tanks are no stranger to the hole in their wallets.

Increases in carbon tax and other factors had led to a €19 increase to fill a 60-litre fuel tank in the last five years, all before the war in the Middle East broke out.

Combined with the cost of heating, electricity, internet, groceries and more, households had a lot on their plate at the start of the year.

Measures to deal with the war's effects on the fuel economy are welcome, but when this period of history is behind us, the prices will still be high and hard for families to deal with.

Time to go forward



THE clocks are set to go forward an hour at 02.00am this Sunday, March 29. This means one less hour in bed. Remember to check your clocks and phones in case they don't automatically change.

Dodder Valley Park running track 'isn't fit for purpose' and boundary requested

THE running track at Dodder Valley Park near Firhouse "isn't fit for purpose" and a boundary has been requested to ensure it is not used as a dog run, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Dodder Valley Park's natural running track located near Mount Carmel Park in Firhouse has been deemed unfit for purpose by a councillor.

Dogs are often seen playing and running around the grass track in the park and Councillor Emma Murphy called for a natural low-level boundary to distinguish the site as a running track.

Cllr Murphy said: "A number of clubs, the running clubs in particular, are engaging in a lot of efforts right around the park and the running track at the moment isn't fit for purpose.

"The reason that it isn't fit for purpose is that it's being used as a dog run. The creation of a natural low-level boundary would very much enhance [it], it would give a perimeter and a definition to the running track."

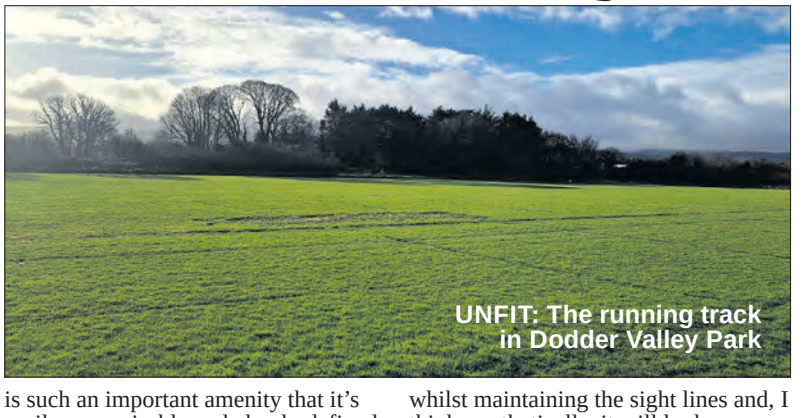
The cost of lining the track and maintaining it has proven costly for Knocklyon's Brothers Pearse Athletic Club, according to the local councillor.

The council noted that the creation of such a boundary could accidentally define the space as a dog run.

Instead, the local authority requested that the track could be shaped and defined through tree planting and utilise passive surveillance to ensure this is successful.

Councillor Yvonne Collins underlined the importance of providing a definition to the running track.

Cllr Collins said: "The running track is such an important amenity that it's easily recognisable and clearly defined and demarcated as being distinct for many other uses…



UNFIT: The running track in Dodder Valley Park

"…The idea of tree planting is excellent because it will mark it out whilst maintaining the sight lines and, I think, aesthetically, it will look very well."

A formal dog run is expected to be constructed in close proximity to the running track in Dodder Valley Park this year.

The council confirmed that they have engaged with Brother's Pearse, who use the facility, and will continue to engage with them as the issue is addressed.

Cllr Murphy stressed that the distinction must be made with haste as the summer months approach.

She said: "We do need to move on as quickly as we possibly can, particularly coming into the summer months where activity on a grass surface such as this track is going to be paramount for the club, and for anyone else that's using the park as well.

"It will give a clear guidance for dog users and for the club as well that there's a kind of formality to the track too."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Public toilets planned for new tourist attraction and parks



ATTRACTION: An artist impression of the 12th Lock Masterplan

Included are the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre and 12th Lock Masterplan

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE local council are implementing a number of new tourist attractions and parks facilities with public toilets in mind.

The development of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards, Tallaght Heritage Centre, the 12th Lock Masterplan and the Lucan House Masterplan are all set to include new public facilities.

The local authority stated that this move will aim to support "the overall visitor experience" at these new locations and pointed to a previous development where such facilities were installed.

A statement from South Dublin County Council said: "All of these public attractions when developed will include toilet facilities for the public, supporting the overall visitor experience for people visiting these destinations and enjoying their cultural and amenity value.

"In delivering its tourism objectives, the council has already developed the Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre in Clondalkin, which also provides toilets for use by visitors to this tourism destination."

This follows news that locations across Clondalkin Village have been shortlisted as possible spots to place a new public toilet, which is expected to be introduced in line with the finalised Local Planning Framework.

Civic Offices, Brú Chrónáin and Watery Lane are among the sites listed as possible hosts of a public toilet in the village.

However the cost of the introduction of a public toilet facility in Clondalkin is yet to be measured and is based on whichever site is chosen as a preference, according to South Dublin County Council's Parks Superintendent David Fennell.

The local authority's Parks and Open Space Strategy also allows for the provision of public toilets, with an emphasis on them accompanying visitor facilities such as coffee shops or tea rooms.

However, this may not be feasible for every location and the council noted that they would consider other supervised locations or work in partnership with nearby community centres to fill in the gap.

Coffee shops such as Ruff Café in Corkagh Park, Clondalkin has public toilet facilities available to all park users.

A coffee shop with sports changing facilities has been provided in Airlie Park in Adamstown.

Tymon Park Centre recently opened at Tymon Park, with coffee shop, meeting space/activity area, public toilets and an outdoor terrace to facilitate intergenerational outdoor use that can interact with the park location.

SDCC stated: "These facilities increase dwell time in the park and provide for toilet facilities in a pleasant, supervised and easy to maintain manner."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



‘It doesn’t make sense to sell vehicles used in extreme weather’

Calls for minister to rethink decision to sell Hagglund vehicles based at Belgard

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie



DECISION: The Hagglund vehicles are stationed at the Civil Defense Training Centre on Belgard Road

CALLS have been made for the Minister for Defence to rethink a decision to sell two Hagglund vehicles stationed in Belgard that have been used in national emergencies.

Letters have been sent to the Minister for Defence Helen McEntee TD urging her to reconsider a decision by the Civil Defence to sell the two Hagglund tracked articulated all-terrain vehicles located at the Dublin Civil Defence Training Centre on the Belgard Road.

The vehicles are expected to be taken from their Belgard home in April and removed from service.

The Hagglunds have been used as recently as last year in Limerick and are typically called upon to offer assistance to people in need who may be cut off due to extreme weather conditions, such as heavy snow or flooding.

Officer-in-Charge of the Dublin Civil Defence Hagglund Unit Robert Dunne described them as “the only piece of kit” capable of doing all that work.

The first Hagglund was deployed to various locations in the Wicklow Mountains in 2010 and provided supplies to locals in the area and soldiers stationed at Kilbride army barracks, who were all completely cut off by snow and impassable by any other machine.

Dunne said: “They’re extremely capable. What’s unique about them is that they have very little ground pressure. They go on water without any modification…

“…We’ve used them for a lot of different purposes. We’ve used them for flooding in Laois and Longford, a couple of times in the Dublin area, they’ve gone to Kerry.

“There was a group of houses [in Kerry] along the coast where the road was literally falling into the sea and there was no access – they were completely cut off – so, the Hagglund was used to gain access into these families and bring equipment and supplies.”

A letter has also been sent to the Head of the Civil Defence from the leader of the Hagglund unit, but no response has been received.

Volunteer crews at Dublin Civil Defence are trained in the operation and maintenance of the Hagglunds and Dunne noted that the pair of vehicles are fully operational.

The Officer-in-Charge stated that flooding has become a larger national issue and that the current climate should underline the need for these vehicles to those planning the sale.

“Flooding is more of an issue now. Adverse weather is more of an issue than it has ever been before.

“They’re getting rid of equipment that works really well in that scenario, helping people.

“It just doesn’t make any sense to me.”

‘Multiple large potholes’ including one the size of a van making road very unsafe

COUNCIL road engineers “couldn’t have anticipated” the rate at which the surface of a diversion route for the Hazelhatch Road has deteriorated, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Cllr Trevor Gilligan brought a motion before the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area committee meeting calling for repairs to Loughtown Road, also known as Brownstown Road, due to “multiple large potholes including one approximately the size of a van in both length and width and around 4–5 inches deep.”

“The potholes are so bad, and the rain was so bad in these potholes that it was like a swimming pool, and motorists had to then veer onto the other side of the road, making it very unsafe,” he told the meeting on Wednesday, March 18.

He highlighted that this road, currently in use as a diversion route while Uisce Éireann carry out works on the Hazelhatch Road from the junction with Loughtown Road and the junction with Athgoe Road, is the only access road for residents of Brownstown (located close to the Dublin/Kildare border).

An engineer with the council’s road maintenance department told councillors at the meeting that it was unfortunate that the higher volume of traffic along Loughtown Road has “coincided with the torrential rain that we had late January/early February”.

He stated that while they have carried out some repairs and surveyed for works to be carried out in the future, it “wouldn’t be feasible to carry out works at the moment” while the road is in use as a diversion route.

Coming back in after the staff member’s reply, Cllr Gilligan stated that the damage to the road should and could have been prevented.

“We should have seen all this beforehand and planned all this and repaired these potholes before proceeding with the Hazelhatch roadworks,” he said.

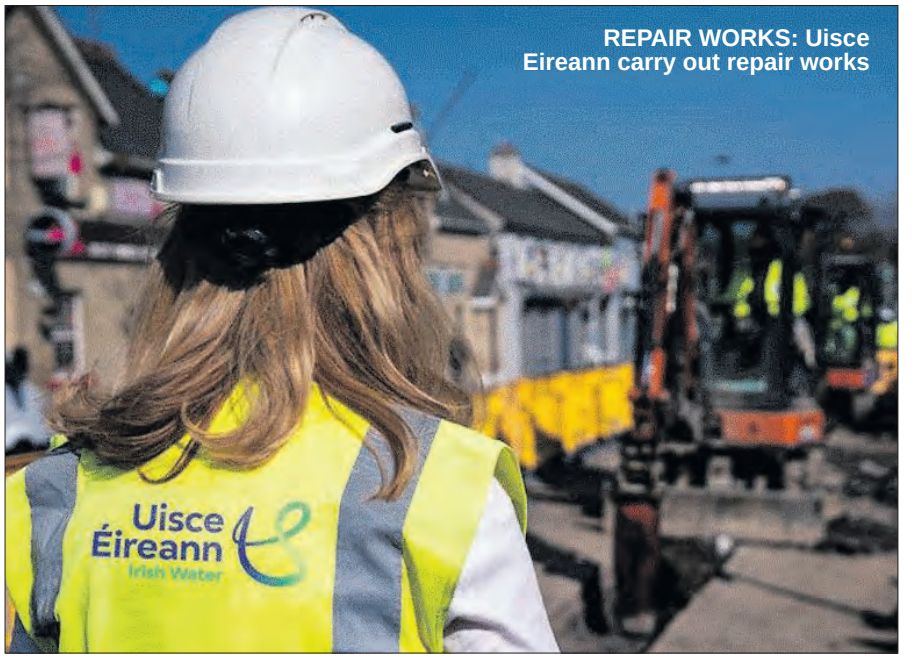
“Now we’re in a situation where we can’t actually fix the potholes because we’re doing new works,” he added.

Responding to these comments from Cllr Gilligan, the road engineer said that it was a combination of the increased traffic using Loughtown/Brownstown Road as a diversion and the record-breaking rainfall that had resulted in this road deteriorating at an unexpected rate.

“We could have anticipated the traffic, we couldn’t have anticipated the rainfall,” he said.

“There’s parts that we could have done better, but we can’t control the weather unfortunately.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



REPAIR WORKS: Uisce Eireann carry out repair works

Concerns over increase in anti-social behaviour incidents on buses



INCIDENTS: Bus services have been cancelled due to anti-social behaviour issues

Incidents have led to cancellation of bus services during the evening

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

CONCERNS were raised about the recent prevalence of public transport issues caused by anti-social behaviour in the Tallaght area and the consequences it could have.

Instances of anti-social behaviour in the local area have led to the cancellation of bus services for the evening, including the 27, 65b and 77a.

Several incidents of youths throwing stones, bottles and other projectiles at buses travelling the 27 route have also been reported by drivers at recent meetings of the West Tallaght Local Transport Forum, particularly along Fortunestown Way and Brookfield Road.

Councillor Adam Smyth noted that these issues are affecting many residents in Tallaght, including the more dependent section of the local population.

Cllr Smyth told *The Echo:* "This is affecting everybody. When the busses are diverted, potentially having to get off at the Tallaght bypass at 10pm and having to walk down as far as Fettercairn and Brookfield and different areas.

"This is causing a lot of hassle for everybody, and I suppose it's just highlighting that, if this is to actually continue, we need to, as a community, take a stance.

"Talk to our kids, and highlight that this is affecting our grannies, our elderly neighbors, and it's not just a bit of fun and the bus window is smashed.

"This is actually affecting us in the long term."

The Tallaght Central councillor stated that buses pulled from service due to damage from these events need several days to be repaired.

This then results in less buses being on the route and causing a domino effect as further strain is placed on drivers to deliver a timely service with less resources, while facing the possibility that such damage could happen to their vehicle.

Cllr Smyth noted the work that the local Gardaí have done to track down the assailants involved and also the work carried out by unions and transport companies in response to this.

However, he urged the community to step up to ensure that this behaviour is stamped out and that the residents of Tallaght can continue to avail of necessary bus services.

"I think these committees and the guards are doing a lot, and they're doing everything they can, but I think the community needs also to step up and help and support that as well.

"Even just having that talk with our kids and with our families."

Funded by the Local Demcoracy Reporting Scheme.

Supports and measures to help people deal with rising energy costs

PENSIONERS, carers, and people with disabilities will get increased help with the cost of heating their homes, according to Minister of state with special responsibility for Disability and Dublin Mid-West TD, Emer Higgins who has also pointed to reductions for motorists and hauliers.

Minister Higgins said Fine Gael is taking action to help with targeted and time-bound measures to deal with rising energy costs.

"The supports announced today will come as a welcome relief to so many in Dublin Mid-West

"There will be a 20-cent reduction in excise duty on a litre of diesel, 15-cent on a litre of petrol, and a 3-cent cut in excise on a litre of marked gas oil (green diesel) until the end of May.

"We'll also see the NORA (National Oil Reserves Agency) levy of 2 cent on a litre of petrol, diesel and home heating oil paused for two months.

"All transport users in Dublin Mid-West commuters, businesses and farmers, will benefit from these steps.

"For hauliers here will be an enhanced diesel tax rebate scheme that will be backdated to January to help keep supply chains functioning for Dublin Mid-West and beyond.

"I'm also glad to see a four-week extension to the fuel allowance, which will see 470,000 households get continued help with their home heating.

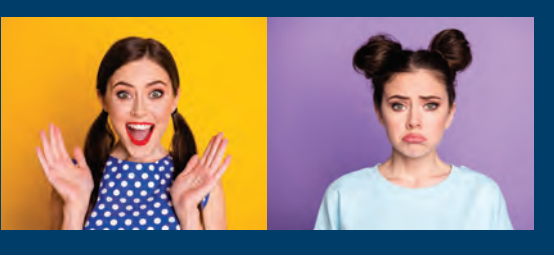
"All reductions on excise will come into force immediately and the NORA levy will come into effect on April 1st, once it has been passed by both the Dáil and Seanad.

"This package will be a significant help to commuters, vulnerable households, businesses, and hauliers in Dublin Mid-West," concluded Minister Higgins.

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Alexis recovering from serious injuries in hospital

ALEXIS Campion who was seriously injured outside a house in Oak Downs in Clondalkin continues to recover from her injuries in hospital.

As part of their investigation into the serious incident last November of Alexis, who is aged in her 40s, Gardai on Tuesday searched a total of 19 properties in the Clondalkin and Ballyfermot areas.

Three males, (two aged in their 30s and an adult teenager) were arrested on suspicion of Attempted Murder still remain detained under section 50 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2007 in Garda Stations in Dublin.

Gardaí seized a number of items during the operation including drugs worth an estimated €2,000.

The seized drugs include zopiclone tablets, cannabis herb, cannabis resin and cocaine.

In addition, Gardaí seized two e-scooters and 13 electronic devices of evidential value.

In a statement gardai said: "Gardaí continue to investigate a Serious Assault of a woman (aged in her 40s) at a house in Clondalkin, Dublin 22 on Tuesday 25th November 2025.

"The injured woman, Alexis Campion continues to recover from her injuries in hospital. An Garda Síochána through a Family Liaison Officer continue to keep Alexis Campion and her family updated on the ongoing investigation.

"The three males (two aged in their 30s and an adult teenager) arrested on suspicion of Attempted Murder remain detained under section 50 Criminal Justice Act, 2007 in Garda Stations in Dublin."

Gardai continue to appeal to any persons who were in the Oak Downs area of Clondalkin on Tuesday, November 25 2025 between 9.30am and 10.20am and/ or who may have video footage (including dash-cam) are asked to make this footage available to investigating Gardaí.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Clondalkin Garda Station on (01) 666 7600, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda station.



SERIOUSLY: Alexis Campion was seriously injured outside a house in Oak Downs in Clondalkin last November

'We won't tolerate this type of behaviour' - say gardai

43-year-old mother of two was doused with a flammable liquid and set alight

LAST November, a 43-year-old mother of two opened her front door in Oak Downs, Clondalkin and was doused with a flammable liquid and set alight, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

She suffered serious burns, was placed in a coma, and has been undergoing medical treatment in the months since.

Following this incident, believed to be another mistaken identity horror story linked to the drugs trade, gardai carried out a number of raids.

Arson attacks have become a trend in recent years in Clondalkin and Ballyfermot – linked to drug debts but a tragic aspect to many cases is that innocent homes and families have been targeted.

Those carrying out the attacks are usually very young males.

Early on Tuesday morning, over 100 gardai set out for an operation that saw 19 properties searched in Clondalkin and Ballyfermot.

The investigation continues to be led by the Serious Crime Unit South, DMR West Garda Division under a Senior Investigation Officer based from an incident room at Clondalkin Garda Station.

Three males were arrested, believed by gardai to be linked to the Oak Downs attack.

The action, which falls under Operation Fógra, is related to organised crime in the Clondalkin and Ballyfermot area and forms part of an ongoing investigation, according to Detective Superintendent Thomas Gormley, Clondalkin Garda Station.

The three males arrested can be held for up to seven days under section 50 Criminal Justice Act in garda stations in Dublin.

During a drive along last month, detectives attached to the DMR West division, showed *The Echo* how they tracked the movements of those involved in the Oak Downs attack.



INCIDENT: The front door of the house following the incident in Clondalkin in November

CCTV helps piece the investigation together and gardai could track which way the assailants travelled to Oak Downs on e-bikes via the Grand Canal.

Detectives also highlighted how big a problem drug intimidation debts are in the community – a youth caught with a bag belonging to someone higher up the chain is held to account for the cost of the drugs.

Even if the drugs were worth 5k, higher ups can demand fees way higher than that, and try to extort this from family members.

During the Oak Downs attack, another man was also taken to hospital with injuries after trying to extinguish the flames of the woman.

Gardai believe the attack was intended for another person linked to an incident the previous day when a number of men armed with knives were in the same area, apparently in a bid to threaten a man in an incident being linked to the drugs trade.

The message DS Gormley wants to send out is "we won't tolerate this type of behaviour and if we can get assistance from the public we can do something about it."

"We have liason Inspectors for Operation Fógra – Inspector Paul Mayock for Clondalkin, Ballyfermot, Rathcoole and Inspector Aonghus Hussey for Lucan and Ronanstown."

But what if people are afraid to talk to gardai?

DS Gormley understands if people are reluctant to make statements about someone who could be a neighbour but says gardai "deal with all information professionally and in confidence."

"Our main aim is to bring a prosecution. It is the only way we can stop these people, who are targeting vulnerable people.

"This incident was last November, so its four months later, but successful investigations can be a deterrent. If you come to us we will help you."

Operation Fógra is intended to disrupt drugs related intimidation and the sale and supply of controlled drugs.

Drug-related intimidation has been identified as a major source of community harm and fear in the DMR area and a sinister motive for various forms of criminality.

Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme

Cllr Mick Duff

"I am here for my constituents, to help in any way I can. Please get in touch"

Mick can be contacted on:
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Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



Mick DUFF

From the Community and For the Community

SDCC Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

Visit: sdcc.ie to discover more

Welcome to Keepers Lock, Clonburris



Keepers Lock, Clonburris is a vibrant new community, featuring spacious houses, apartments and duplexes. Perfectly suited for first-time buyers and growing families, these homes offer a harmonious blend of community charm and urban convenience.

Each home at Keepers Lock boasts contemporary design and energy efficiency. These homes are thoughtfully designed to provide spacious accommodation offering an intelligent use of space, a keen eye for style and true commitment to quality.

Property Type	House Name	Number of Homes	Market Value	Minimum Purchase Price	% Discount from Market Value	Maximum Purchase Price	Typical Gross Household Income Limit*
2 bedroom apartment (ground floor)	The Holly	6	€385,000	€285,000	25.97%	€365,750	€82,294
2 bedroom apartment (ground floor, side entrance)	The Primrose	2	€390,000	€290,000	25.64%	€370,500	€83,363
2 bedroom house (mid-terrace)	The Foxglove	3	€435,000	€335,000	22.99%	€413,250	€92,981
3 bedroom duplex (1st /2nd floor)	The Orchid	6	€435,000	€345,000	20.69%	€413,250	€92,981
3 bedroom duplex (1st /2nd floor)	The Aster	2	€445,000	€355,000	20.22%	€422,750	€95,119
3 bedroom house (mid-terrace)	The Daisy	3	€475,000	€361,000	24%	€451,250	€101,531
3 bedroom house (end of terrace)	The Daisy	2	€490,000	€376,000	23.27%	€465,500	€104,738
3 bedroom house (end of terrace, side entrance)	The Poppy	1	€500,000	€386,000	22.80%	€475,000	€106,875

A total of 25 new homes are being offered for sale by SDCC under an Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement (ADPA). These homes are, subject to exceptions, being made available for first-time buyers only. These include:

Number of Homes	Property Type
8	2 Bedroom Apartments
3	2 Bedroom Houses
8	3 Bedroom Duplexes
6	3 Bedroom Houses

The homes will be sold to eligible applicants who can demonstrate that they have the purchasing capacity between the minimum and maximum purchase prices. Your purchasing capacity is calculated as the combined total of:

Maximum mortgage capacity, i.e. 4 times gross household income

+

A minimum deposit of 10% of the affordable purchase price (which can include support from the Help to Buy scheme)

+

Relevant savings, i.e., any savings in excess of the combined sum of the required deposit amount plus €30,000

Buyers will enter into an ADPA with SDCC. Under this scheme, SDCC will take an equity share in the home—equal to the difference between the market value and the price you pay, expressed as a percentage of the market value. Applicants must require a minimum of 5% equity to be eligible to purchase.

The council may not seek realisation of its affordable dwelling equity for a 40-year period (other than for breach of the agreement). However, the purchaser may choose to redeem or buy out the affordable dwelling equity at any time by means of one or a series of payments to the council.

Eligible applicants will be prioritised based on SDCC's Scheme of Priority.

At least 30% of the homes are reserved for those who currently live - or have previously lived - for five years or more in the SDCC area.

* Income assessments and exceptions apply. Households with lower incomes may still qualify.

The portal will open for online applications at 10am on 9th April 2026 and will close at 4pm on 1st May 2026.

Further information on this scheme, the Scheme of Priority, details of how to make an application and the required documentation, are available on www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/affordable-homes/

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Jail for man found with €8.5m of cannabis in Ballymount storage unit

A MAN has been jailed for six years for his role in a "highly organised and sophisticated operation" which saw €8.5 million of cannabis found in a rented storage unit in Dublin two years ago, *reports Eimear Dodd.*

Dutch national Onkar Singh (46) pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis for sale or supply and possession of €3,035, being the proceeds of crime, on October 11, 2024.

He also pleaded guilty to having a €5 note in his possession, intended for use in connection with a drug trafficking offence on the same date.

He has no convictions in this jurisdiction or any other, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

Detective Garda Joanne Browne of the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau previously outlined that gardai received a confidential tip off about the storage of cannabis and a surveillance operation was put in place at a rented storage unit in the M50 Business Park in Ballymount.

Det Gda Browne said it is believed that Singh, who has an address in the Netherlands, arrived in Ireland on October 9, 2024. She added that the investigation team believe that he had been here several times before this date.

Singh and a co-accused were observed in a black Volkswagen van on the evening of October 9, 2024. Later that day, they were seen taking receipt of a forklift at the storage unit.

Singh's movements to and from the storage unit were observed the following day.

On October 11, 2024, pallets from a truck were unloaded into the storage unit by Singh and a co-accused.

Singh then went to the Applegreen, where he met a third and fourth co-accused.

Det Gda Browne said a €5 note was exchanged between Singh and one of the two co-accused at the service station as a token of identification. This note was seized when Singh was arrested, the court heard.

Singh and other co-accused returned to the storage unit where they were arrested by gardai.

A search of the van and the storage unit led to the discovery of seven cardboard boxes containing a total of 426kg of cannabis, with a street value of €8.5 million.

These boxes had been part of 24 pallets, and the drugs were mixed in with food items, the court heard.

Singh was sitting in the driver's seat of the van when he was arrested. Three phones were seized from him, one of which was in his pocket. Travel documents relating to Singh and €3,035 cash were found in a bag in the van.

Singh denied any knowledge of drugs or involvement with a criminal enterprise when interviewed by gardai.

He took responsibility for the phone found in his pocket. Messages between him and a forklift driver were found on a second phone, which he did not take responsibility for.

Imposing sentence on Friday, Judge Sinead Ni Chulachain noted that Singh had offered no explanation for his involvement and that the court had to infer he was "engaged for personal profit".

She said there was no suggestion that Singh was put under pressure or duress and that gardai assessed him at just below mid-level in the organisation. She noted he was trusted with the control of the drugs and money.

The judge said this was a "highly organised and sophisticated operation".

She said while the court assessed Singh's personal culpability at the mid-level, this had to be balanced against the high value of the drugs and the sophistication of the operation.

The judge said the court could depart from the presumptive mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years for the drugs charge due to Singh's early pleas, his lack of previous convictions and the difficulty of serving a prison sentence as a foreign national.

She set a headline sentence of 12 years, which she reduced to eight years, with the final two years suspended for five years on the condition that Singh leave the jurisdiction within five days of his release from custody.

The sentence was backdated to when Singh went into custody following his arrest.

At an earlier hearing, Det Gda Browne agreed with Garret Baker SC, defending, that there is no forensic evidence linking his client to the drugs.

It was further accepted that Singh was not the owner of the drugs or the architect of this operation and was engaged by others to do this work.

Det Gda Browne agreed that Singh is assessed as "just under midlevel" adding that he was also trusted, given his role in this operation.

Mr Baker said his client finds himself in an "appalling situation" through his own "grave ill judgement".

Singh is married with two children. He moved to the Netherlands from India 20 years ago and has a work history there, including running his own business.

Counsel said his client is "marooned in an Irish jail cell far away from home" and is unlikely to receive visits from family while in custody.

A letter of apology and several testimonials were handed to the court.

Judge Ni Chulachain said it appears that Singh is "very pro-social" and highly regarded from the references provided to court.

She said it was "hard to understand" how he became involved.

Mr Baker said he did not get "clear or detailed instructions" about how his client became involved in this offending.

He said Singh acknowledges his involvement was a "mistake" and "something he deeply regrets".

Counsel asked the court to take into account his client's early guilty plea and that he will be serving a sentence in a foreign jurisdiction.

He submitted the court could depart from the presumptive mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years.

He submitted that if the court suspended part of the sentence on condition that his client immediately leaves the jurisdiction, Singh would comply with this.

Singh, who has been in custody since his arrest, was assisted during the hearing by a Hindi interpreter.

Convicted of money laundering syndicate on breathtaking scale

'Colonel and a major' convicted of directing the activities of a criminal organisation

By **Eimear Dodd**
news@echo.ie



A "COLONEL and a major" in a "worldwide highly sophisticated money laundering syndicate on a breathtaking scale" have been jailed for nine years and seven-and-a-half years respectively.

Ejike Francis Ogubefi (42) of Clonard Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12 and Steven Silvester (32) of The Paddocks, Morristown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, were both convicted of directing the activities of a criminal organisation following a trial at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court in February.

Ogubefi was also convicted of 32 counts of money laundering and seven of conspiracy to money launder. The jury also convicted Silvester of five counts of money laundering, two of attempted money laundering, four of conspiracy to money launder and one of using a false instrument.

Both defendants have no previous convictions here or in another jurisdiction.

The court heard that both men are assessed to be above mule herders and money mules in the operation, with Ogubefi having a more active role.

During the sentence hearing, Judge Martin Nolan suggested to the investigating garda that the men were a "colonel and a major", which Detective Garda Steven Kelly agreed with.

Imposing sentence on Friday, Judge Nolan said both men were involved in the offending and played certain roles.

He noted that the scheme's ambition was to "get accounts to launder illicit monies" which were "undoubtedly the product of criminal behaviour" and that third parties unknown to the court suffered as a result.

"Both men were reasonably experienced in how the banking system works" and aware of its weaknesses which they tested, sometimes successfully, the judge said.

The judge said he had considered the mitigation and there was a "good chance" the men would not re-offend in future, but that the court could not be certain.

Judge Nolan noted that money laundering is a "serious problem" and the court often dealt with cases of people who provided their bank details to be used in these schemes.

"These bank accounts are absolutely necessary for all fraud, because monies have to come to earth somewhere," the judge said, noting that the defendants' main role was to procure bank accounts so that money could be sent to others who profited.

He handed Ogubefi a sentence of nine years and imposed a seven-and-half year sentence on Silvester, whom he considered to be at a lower level.

The judge said this type of money laundering is prevalent and hard to detect and that deterrence had to be a factor in sentencing. He also directed the men to get credit for any time served on this matter alone.

126 vacant homes brought back into use in 2025



TURNAROUND: 126 vacant properties were brought back into active use in the county

€2 million fund aims to acquire and refurbish properties and return them to the market

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

OVER 100 vacant social homes were brought back into use across South Dublin in 2025 after over €2 million in funding from the Government's Voids programme.

126 vacant social homes were brought into active use in the county last year after the Government invested more than €2m under a programme that aims to acquire and refurbish properties and return them to the market in good time.

Since 2014, a total of 1,243 homes in South Dublin have been brought back into use, with over €14m invested by the State to ensure existing social housing is refurbished quickly and made available for families who need it.

More than 2,100 vacant social homes were brought back into active use in 2025 across the country.

Minister of State with special responsibility for Disability Emer Higgins TD welcomed the news and noted that leaving houses vacant is "a missed opportunity we can't afford."

The Minister of State said: "Minimising the time it takes to re-let properties, leading to more consistent occupancy and shorter turnaround times, is an essential element in addressing the demand for social housing.

"Local authorities are clearly making strong progress in this area and I expect this to continue in 2026."

Between 2020 and 2025, 15,365 homes have been returned to active use in Ireland, funded by the Voids Programme.

Since its commencement in 2014, €385m has been spent to return 27,860 homes back into active use.

Over €30m was provided to local authorities under the programme last year, including almost €7m in planned maintenance funds to help stock condition surveys and other works.

Minister for Housing James Browne TD recently announced a €40m investment under the Voids programme this year, which aims to bring 2,200 social homes back into use over the course of 2026.

The Minister also announced a new model for Voids, which will link future funding allocations to local authority performance.

By 2027, a vacancy rate of 2 per cent and a maximum average turnaround time of 18 weeks will be targeted, and further reductions are intended for the following years if this is achieved.

Local authorities that meet these targets will be eligible to receive full funding under the revised model.

Minister of State Higgins indicated that the programme could help benefit areas where housing demand is high in South Dublin.

She concluded: "We have heard loud and clear that more housing is needed in Lucan, Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Saggart, Brittas, Newcastle and Palmerstown."

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Victim of fake taxi scam pushed out of moving vehicle

THE victim of a fake taxi scam was pushed out of a moving vehicle, a court has heard, reports *Eimear Dodd.*

Maria Muntean (37) was driving a black Volkswagen car which pulled upside beside the 19-year-old victim, who had fallen asleep while waiting for a night bus near Kildare Street on March 19, 2023.

Her son Damit Rostas (22) got out of the car, and offered the injured party a taxi. The victim agreed, then got into the back of the car beside Rostas.

The victim asked to go to Portobello, as he believed at this point it was a legitimate taxi and plugged his phone in to charge.

At some point, he felt the car was going the wrong way and asked to be let out. Rostas told him he had to pay the fare, and there was a discussion that the injured party would pay this using Revolut.

Rostas took his bank card, saying he would sort out the fare.

As the car drove along Serpentine Avenue, a marked garda patrol car was behind it. Det Gda Kelly said they saw a rear passenger door open and the victim pushed out of the moving car onto the road.

The car continued to drive and the gardai activated their blue lights, signalling for it to stop.

After it pulled over, the victim came up to gardai while they were speaking to Muntean and Rostas, explaining that he had been robbed of his bank card.

Detective Garda Gillian Duffy told Shaun Smith BL, prosecuting, told the court this was a 'fake taxi scam' where a drunk person was preyed upon and offered an illegal taxi.

Muntean, of Swanhall Apartments, Belgard Square West, Tallaght, Dublin 24, pleaded guilty to robbery and endangerment.

Her son Damit Rostas (22) of Virginia Hall, Belgard Square, Tallaght Dublin 24 received a sentence of 27 months last year at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for his role.

The victim's phone was later found in Rostas' underpants during a search at the garda station. A victim impact statement was handed into the court and not read aloud.

Nothing of evidential value was obtained when Muntean was interviewed. She has 50 previous convictions including 16 for theft and 20 for trading offences.

Det Gda Kelly accepted a suggestion from Gregory Murphy BL, defending, that his client was the follower while her son was more of a leader.

It was further accepted that Muntean complied with her bail conditions and the majority of her previous convictions were from the District Court.

Mr Murphy told the court his client has seven children, the youngest of whom has serious medical issues and requires significant ongoing care.

Counsel said he is instructed to apologise to the court and the injured party and that his client takes full responsibility.

A gesture of remorse of €1000 was also available.

Mr Murphy noted his client's most recent conviction was from 2021 and that she has some work history, after coming to this jurisdiction in 2002. He asked the court to differentiate between the roles played by Muntean and her son.

He said the court often sees in families that come from Romania in which the "males are the leaders while the females are more subservient".

Mr Murphy submitted that his client has turned her life around and asked the court to consider imposing a suspended prison sentence.

After hearing the facts of the case on Monday, Judge Martin Nolan said this was a "rather serious offence" and it was "very hard to say" if Muntean would re-offend, given her record of previous conviction, adding that the "courts are always optimistic".

He said the court was aware when considering a custodial sentence of the potential impact on third parties, especially children.

However, the judge said the court had concluded that the defendant could not avoid a custodial term on the basis of what she had done.

Judge Nolan said the court would give Muntean time for arrangements to be made for the care of the child and adjourned finalisation until May, remanding her on continuing bail.

'Quite clear this was a very serious arson attempt' - Judge

Man involved in setting fire outside apartment where infant and child were sleeping

By **Eimear Dodd**
news@echo.ie



A MAN involved in setting a fire outside an apartment where an infant and a small child were sleeping has been jailed for two and a half years.

Anthony Kavanagh (44) purchased a bottle of petrol and poured it outside the front door of the apartment in Inchicore, Dublin 8 on August 15 last. Another unidentified man ignited the fire, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

Kavanagh, of Elmville, Harolds Cross, Dublin 6, told gardai he had been informed the flat was unoccupied. He said he was asked by another person to do it because of a drugs debt and was told he'd also receive drugs.

He became upset when he was told a nine-week-old baby, a two-year-old, their mother and uncle were in the apartment at the time.

Kavanagh came forward on signed guilty pleas to arson and criminal damage by having a bottle of petrol in his possession, intending to use it or permit another to use it to damage property

Detective Garda Mark Kelly told Sarah Connolly BL, prosecuting, that when gardai arrived at the apartment complex, the occupants of the affected apartment were already outside.

The primary occupant later told gardai that she remembered seeing a flash of light through the glass windows at her hall door.

She grabbed her children and gave them to her brother, getting all three of them onto the balcony at the back of the apartment.

She used a fire extinguisher on the front door and the frame, while her neighbours helped to put out the fire on the balcony using a fire blanket. Extensive damage was caused to the front door and hallway and photos were handed into the court

The woman also told gardai she saw a plastic bottle outside the front door and panicked as she was terrified for her children.

She had to leave the property along with her children in the aftermath. She declined to provide a victim impact statement.

CCTV showed Kavanagh buying a bottle of petrol at a nearby petrol station a few minutes beforehand.

The court heard a partially melted bottle found outside the apartment matched a bottle Kavanagh bought and filled with petrol.

Kavanagh was arrested in late September and was co-operative. He has 102 previous convictions including for public order, theft and fraud, assault and road traffic offences.

Det Gda Kelly agreed with John Fitzgerald SC, defending, that his client told gardai he was a chronic drug user, who had been using crack cocaine and sleeping tablets.

It was also accepted that Kavanagh was put under pressure and his role was to buy the petrol and pour it on the ground.

The garda also agreed that Kavanagh said it was stupid decision, was remorseful and apologetic during interview.

A letter of apology, a GP letter and other documents were provided to the court.

Mr Fitzgerald said this offence was "more grave to a considerable degree" compared to his client's previous offending, noting his previous convictions were indicative of someone experiencing serious addiction issues.

Kavanagh started to smoke cannabis at 14 and began to smoke heavily and gamble in his late 20s, before turning to harder drugs.

He had a difficult background with his mother dying when he was six and his father going into prison when he was 10 years old.

He has some work history but lost his job and later became homeless. Counsel said Kavanagh is prescribed anti-psychotics and has attempted self-harm.

Mr Fitzgerald said his client built up a debt through gambling and drug use and was then asked to carry out this task.

He said his client thought no one was there and did not set out to intentionally harm anyone.

He said Kavanagh has partially engaged with supports and he asked the court to structure a sentence which will allow his client to fully engage with services upon his release.

Imposing sentence, Judge Sinead Ni Chulachain said having viewed the photos of the damage caused, it was "quite clear this was a very serious arson attempt".

The judge said Kavanagh was "very lucky" that the victim was so quick-thinking and the court didn't think it was mitigating that "you weren't aware people were there".

She said the court accepted Kavanagh was somewhat vulnerable and under pressure, but noted he was also going to profit by receiving drugs.

The judge said she had considered Kavanagh's "tragic circumstances", his early guilty pleas and his expressions of remorse.

She handed him a sentence of three and a half years, with the final 12 months suspended on strict conditions for two years.

The judge said the court wished to give Kavanagh an opportunity to rehabilitate and engage with drug treatment and other supports.

She placed him under the supervision of the Probation Service for two years post-release.

Your Dublin MEP
LYNN BOYLAN
Feisire Eorpach d'Átha Cliath



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I BPARLAIMINT NA HEORPA







HONOUR IRELAND'S PATRIOT DEAD - WEAR AN EASTER LILY

The Easter Lily is a symbol of remembrance in Irish republican tradition, worn around Easter to honour the men and women who died in the struggle for Irish freedom, particularly those who took part in the Easter Rising of 1916. First introduced in 1926 by members of Cumann na mBan, the lilies were used to raise funds for republican prisoners and their families and quickly became one of the most recognised symbols of remembrance connected to Ireland's fight for independence. The lily also reflects the important role women played in Ireland's revolutionary history, representing the overlap between the struggles for national independence and women's rights. Today, the Easter Lily continues to be worn as a mark of respect, remembrance and reflection on the sacrifices made in the pursuit of Irish freedom.

A MESSAGE FROM LYNN BOYLAN

YOUR SINN FÉIN MEP

A chara,

As Easter approaches, I wanted to update you on my work in the European Parliament since the turn of the year. This follows on from my previous message to you before Christmas. You can also keep up to date with my work in Europe by keeping an eye on my website at **www.lynnboylan.ie** and I would love if you signed up to my newsletter at the link which you will find there.

Since the new year I have worked on a variety of topics:

Energy Poverty

This is a huge issue, and the media have published my findings on this where not only were almost 320,000 homes across Ireland in energy arrears but that every household is paying twice as much for their electricity as big energy users like data centres.

As you will be aware energy costs are now soaring further because of the latest illegal war in Iran. While the government continues to refuse to condemn the war it also refuses to take any action for families in energy poverty here, describing energy credits, previously a pre-election favourite of the governments, as "inappropriate".

I and the LEFT Group in the European Parliament will continue with our work to set up a dedicated anti-poverty strategy which was passed in the European Parliament.

Neutrality

I continue to work hard to preserve Ireland's neutrality which the government continues in its efforts to water down. From PESCO to NATO to removing the triple lock our government continues to undermine our neutrality. International law has been ignored in the recent attacks on Gaza, Venezuela and Iran and now, more than ever, Ireland must be strong in its neutral stance and not bow to pressure from warmongers. Watch out for our public campaign to ensure the government pulls back from moves towards scrapping the triple lock and watering down our neutrality.

The Mercosur deal

No doubt you will have seen the Mercosur trade deal mentioned in the media. It is a rotten deal which has exposed the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen's hypocrisy. I and the majority of the European Parliament recently voted to refer the Mercosur deal to the EU Court of Justice to determine whether the deal is compatible with EU policy.

What did Von der Leyen do? She decided to "provisionally" implement the deal from May!

I will continue my work with the LEFT group to prevent this from happening. My request for the EU's International Trade committee to expression opposition to Von der Leyen's move was blocked by Fine Gael's group the EPP.

Community groups visiting the European Parliament

I recently welcomed a group of women from Dublin Central to the European Parliament. These women are deeply rooted in their communities, and it was a pleasure to have them in Brussels. I organised meetings for them with various groups based in Brussels so that they could make clear the challenges they face on the ground in Dublin. When I was elected, I made a commitment to bring voices of ordinary Dubs to the European Parliament, and I am determined to continue doing this.

Defending Justice and human rights

As the US/Israel attacks on Iran continues, there is little doubt that the media coverage of the brutality that is continuing in Gaza has receded. As Chair of the Parliament's Delegation for relations with Palestine I will continue my work to seek justice for the Palestinian people. Recently our committee has focused on Israel's NGO registration law and the banning of 37 aid organisations. Achieving justice for the victims of the genocide in Gaza is our priority.

Many thanks for taking the time to read my message.

Beannachtí na Cásca ort!

Is mise le meas,

Lynn Boylan MEP



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Calls for funding to be reinstated for staff members of youth service



OPERATIONAL: The Skate Park has been fully operational

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

COUNCILLORS have written to the Minister for Justice to request that funding be reinstated for staff members of a youth service in Ballyfermot.

Local councillors from Ballyfermot and the surrounding areas have written to Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan TD to request that funding for two staff positions at Ballyfermot Youth Service be reinstated.

The council recently stepped in to fund the psychotherapist position at the local youth service, but they are unable to provide funding for two outstanding positions, all of which had previously been funded by the Department of Justice.

Councillor Vincent Jackson, who chairs Ballyfermot Youth Service, welcomed the move from the local authority and noted how important the role of those who carry out the youth work is to the community.

Cllr Jackson said: "They did fund the psychotherapist position and have agreed to fund that for the next couple of years, which is a really, really important service.

"We've had, over the last year, two young people whose lives have ended in very tragic circumstances, that's all I'd say without going into the specifics of it.

"So, we see first-hand the trauma that's out there in the wider community."

The Ballyfermot councillor acknowledged Dublin City Council's move to ensure that that position has funding for the next three years.

He also noted that the money used to fund the positions in the past came from "dormant accounts."

Councillor Daithí Doolan noted that the skate park in Ballyfermot, where the youth service often operate from, has been "hugely successful."

Cllr Doolan said: "[It] has been hugely successful in allowing a number of young people have access to upskilling themselves around skateboards, bicycles, the workshop and a safe space where they can meet.

"We had the Minister for Justice out there the year before last announcing a further investment in the park.

"Well, unfortunately, that further investment turned out to be only a pilot scheme for employing people to work in the skateboard park."

He described the move by the Department not to fund the positions further as "a very short-term investment" in the local community and called on the council to push them to provide longer-term funding to help growth in the area.

The Ballyfermot-Drimnagh councillor commended the work of the staff of Ballyfermot Youth Service and noted how they go above and beyond for the community.

"It's not just about the bricks and mortar, the four walls and a roof that's in that centre, it's about the work that goes on engaging with young people…

"…Both in the skateboard park but then involving themselves in other services in the area as well and that's a tribute to the staff of Ballyfermot Youth Service as well as those employed by the Department of Justice.

"Unfortunately, the Department have said they're not going to fund it anymore."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Public asked to offer knowledge and recollections of St Brigid's Well

THE local council has asked for contributions from the local community in Rathcoole as they look for ways to protect the St Brigid's Well located there, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The local authority has called for members of the public in Rathcoole to offer their knowledge and recollections of the landmark as they look to pin down the exact location of the well and protect it.

The National Monuments Service data mapping site presents the location of the well as being within private property along Tay Lane, Rathcoole.

Planning permission was granted in 2023 for a four-storey apartment block intended for use as an age-friendly housing scheme.

The 4,224 sqm site must await the publishing of a Conservation Management Plan for the holy well located in the area, which will provide for the long-term maintenance and management of the recorded monument.

Condition no.3 of the planning permission stated: "The plan shall be agreed in advance of the commencement of construction works to ensure that the management and coordination of all phases of construction works are consistent with the policies and procedures for the long-term protection and preservation of the recorded monument."

The council have carried out archaeological trench investigations, but no indications of the well's location were found.

The local authority touted the possibility that the original well site was demolished at some point in the latter half of the 20th century, after having been filled in.

However, South Dublin County Council also stated the possibility that the well survives underground at a location outside of the test trench locations.

Archaeological monitoring was recommended to oversee all future ground clearance works on the site.

Should evidence of the well be found during this process, the well is to be cordoned off and stabilised for preservation in-situ, and a revised Conservation Management Plan will be resubmitted.

The 2026 Heritage Budget has already been finalised for the year with a number of projects already identified and agreed, and costs to preserve are not yet able to be estimated.

Councillor Shirley O'Hara noted the importance of 'keeping the history alive' in the local area and including voices from the Restoration Committee who wish to see the site restored.

Cllr O'Hara said: "To keep the history alive and it will be a lasting benefit for residents…It would be great to meet the committee at one of the meetings."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



Concern over site entrance to traveller accommodation



CONCERNS: The existing entrance to the Traveller Accomodation Scheme at Grange Castle West

Residents 'strongly urge the Council to retain the existing entrance in the interest of safety'

By **Ellen Gough**
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CONCERNS have been raised by local representatives and residents over the proposed site entrance for a new Traveller accommodation site in Lucan.

South Dublin County Council held a Part 8 public consultation for the proposed demolition of an existing Traveller accommodation site known as Rock Road Mansions, Lucan, and the development of a new Traveller accommodation group housing scheme on a site to be known as Lock Road, Grange Castle West, Lucan.

The new Lock Road Traveller Accommodation Group Housing Scheme would occupy a 1.56-hectare site to the north-east of the existing 0.81-hectare Rock Road Mansions development, located just off Adamstown Avenue.

Eight submissions were received during the consultation, which was open from January 29 to March 13 this year, from TDs, councillors and residents from along Adamstown Road and Adamstown Avenue

While most of the submissions were "not opposed to the principle of the occupants of 'Rock Road Mansions' being accommodated", many have raised concerns over the location proposed for the new entrance to the site.

Cllr Shirley O'Hara (FG) lodged a submission on "behalf of seven nearby residents" who "strongly urge the Council to retain the existing entrance in the interest of safety".

"The existing entrance is located close to traffic lights and is significantly safer [while] the proposed entrance is near a bend in the road, where visibility is reduced, creating potential road safety risks," Cllr O'Hara wrote.

"This would also represent the third change of entrance location, which is a cause of concern locally," she added.

Her concerns were echoed by TDs Shane Moynihan (FF), Paul Gogarty (Ind) and Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind).

A number of residents who lodged submissions also raised concerns about the new site entrance, and that the new location for the Traveller accommodation would be closer to their own homes.

"The moving of the proposed entrance brings the noise element closer to my residence," one resident stated, adding that there is "almost nightly noise disturbance" from dogs on the site.

All submissions from the Part 8 public consultation will be compiled into a report by the council's chief executive on the proposed development, which will be presented to elected representatives later this year.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Advertorial

EirGrid Energy Citizens Roadshow in Newcastle to be hosted by Dancing with The Stars judge Brian Redmond

Members of the public will speak with industry leaders about how we can move towards achieving our energy ambitions

EIRGRID, the operator and developer of the national electricity grid, is set to bring its Energy Citizens Roadshow to Newcastle next week.

Led by EirGrid, this free event will bring together experts from SEAI (Ireland's national sustainable energy authority), ESB Networks and South Dublin County Council to provide information about home energy efficiency upgrades, retrofitting grants, community micro-generation schemes, and initiatives to ensure a more sustainable future for Dublin Southwest.

The event will also give members of the public from across the region the opportunity to speak with industry leaders, ask questions, and share their thoughts about how we can proactively move towards achieving our energy ambitions.

Alongside a panel of specialists, the roadshow will be run by Dublin local Brian Redmond, well-known radio broadcaster, and celebrated judge on RTÉ's Dancing with the Stars, who will lead an in-depth panel discussion on Ireland's energy future and facilitate questions from attendees..

The roadshow will take place on Monday 30th March at St. Finian's Community Hall Newcastle, Co. Dublin, with refreshments from 6.00pm and a panel discussion with audience Q&A from 7 to 8.30pm.

The Roadshow event comes as EirGrid continues with its public consultation process on their 'Kildare Dublin' programme with communities in east Kildare and South Dublin and members of their project team will be there to answer questions and outline details about how they are proposing to strengthen the grid network across the area.

A host of local exhibitors will also be in attendance, showcasing the latest information about home renewable energy upgrades, heat pumps, and solar energy.

Speaking ahead of the roadshow, Sinead Dooley, Head of Public Engagement with EirGrid said, "This event aims to give members of the public and businesses across the region the opportunity to hear about the efforts being made to support a sustainable economy and growing communities across the country, by developing and strengthening the electricity grid. Those who attend can also find out more about all the supports available at a local and national level, and I would encourage people to come in and meet us on the night."

"We are also aware of people's concerns regarding energy consumption and the need for savings, which is why we are pleased to have exhibitors from a range of organisations and community energy groups in attendance. We look forward to hearing from industry leaders, community representatives, and attendees to share knowledge in working towards achieving our energy goals."

To register for this free event, visit eirgrid.ie/roadshows, or simply come along on the night.



The Roadshow will be hosted by Brian Redmond, well-known radio broadcaster, and celebrated judge on RTÉ's Dancing with the Stars

Green Eye

Nature on our doorsteps



Rosaleen Dwyer is the County Heritage Officer at South Dublin County Council – every week she gives us an insight into the natural heritage around us and the beautiful biodiversity of the plants and creatures

Early season butterflies



EARLY SPRING: The Small Tortoiseshell is one of our early spring butterflies

AT THE end of the summer season most of our adult butterflies die away, leaving their caterpillars to overwinter either in silken cocoons or as larvae hiding away in grass tussocks.

Some butterflies, however, can overwinter as adults.

They search out places such as deep cracks in tree trunks, or sheltered spaces in the middle of a woodpile or within dry stone walls.

These overwintering butterflies include the Small Tortoiseshell, the Peacock, and the Comma butterfly.

The Peacock and the Small Tortoiseshell can also sometimes be discovered in our houses or sheds, hiding behind curtains or up at the tops of windowpanes in rooms that do not get too warm.

Normal emergence from hibernation is around early March or April, depending on the weather conditions. A few days of bright sunny weather can cause them to warm up.

This wakens them and they emerge from their hibernation places.

These butterflies mate early in March and April, so they need to warm up quickly and head off to look for a mate.

The Small Tortoiseshell is one of Ireland's most common butterflies and it is frequently seen in gardens and parks.

When they emerge in spring, they find a sheltered spot out of the cold March wind to bask in the sun.

They settle on surfaces like stones or along paths which have been gently warmed by the sun.

Another butterfly which is becoming more frequent in Ireland is the Comma butterfly.

This insect had been a temporary migrant visitor to Ireland in the past. It has become a more permanent resident in the last ten years, however, and it now breeds here.

The Comma is a lovely mix of oranges and browns.

They are distinctive in that the edges of their wings are beautifully scalloped.

They are strong fliers, and are most usually seen along hedgerows and riverbanks, or along the edges of open woodland.

The Small Tortoiseshell, the Peacock, and the Comma butterfly all lay their eggs on Nettles.



SCALLOPED WINGS: The Comma Butterfly has beautifully scalloped wings



CELEBRATION: Students from St Mark's Community School at Culture Day

56 different her is celebrated at

Huge range of performances f

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

STUDENTS at St Mark's Community School in Tallaght celebrated 56 different heritage languages and 25 different countries through their Culture Day event on Thursday.

Students at St Mark's Community School on the Cookstown Estate Road in Tallaght held an event on the school grounds to celebrate all the different cultures present in the school, from Irish to Spanish to Iraqi and more.

Around 500 passed through the doors on the day to see the different cultures the 150 or so pupils taking part had on display.

Every student who attended Culture Day paid €2 to get in and were given tickets to purchase the meals available, with the money going to charity.

Students collaborated through their Culture Council, facilitated by teachers, to create a food market, deliver live dance and music performances and give those attending a fashion show – all tailored to show off their respective cultures.

Co-facilitator and teacher at the school, Maeve O'Keeffe stated: "We had a huge range of performances here so that was a major advantage.

"We featured more cultures than we had in previous years. We had performances from India, Iraq, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa."

Those that came to the hall travelled through all the continents as the schools set the stalls up grouped into their respective corners of the planet.

Every country table on display had a country table leader who was in charge of delegating tasks for each nation, such as appointing a representative for the performance or fashion show.

Performances saw Iraqi and Nigerian cultures celebrated, as well as a K-Pop group, a hip-hop group and a second year band created an instrumental track that they performed on the day.

Students created meals that represented their cultures with recipes found by themselves and ingredients and had posters with key phrases in native languages that those in attendance could learn.

Maeve noted that the school are planning to create a cookbook in the future with all the recipes from all the cultures represented in the school.

"Something we're doing this year that we haven't done before is we're coordinating a community cookbook.

"We have a teacher who's collecting all the recipes that were used on Culture Day and we're going to create a cookbook, print that up and we're going to run a social media competition as well.

"The winners will be the ones who try the most of all the recipes."

She noted that the cook book is a way for the student body to engage more with the different cultures present in the school outside of the one-day event.

The school's celebration of heritage and culture is a yearly reminder of the multicultural community that exists in Tallaght and across South Dublin.

"We have a hugely diverse student



ritage languages Culture Day

rom students at St Mark's CS



CULTURE: Angeline Ogier and Gina Jangbno

body – we have 56 different heritage languages spoken in the school.

"In light of increasing protests and in context of what we see in issues with immigration in Ireland, having a day to simply celebrate culture and having it be such a positive day, and seeing the students from Ireland coming in and being so engaged and open-minded is so important to us

"It's really an issue beyond promoting student voices and identities, it teaches students how to engage with people of different cultures and how to be more inclusive in their own ways of thinking."

See photos on page 40

Parents look to raise €10k for sensory room



UPGRADE: St Killian's SNS

By **James Roulston Mooney**
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PARENTS of students at St Kilian's Senior National School in Tallaght are raising funds for a "drastically needed" new sensory room on the school grounds.

Jessica Doherty and Marcia Coutinho are looking to raise €10,000 to upgrade the sensory room at St Kilian's SNS in Kingswood, Tallaght, with around €8k raised so far, and aim to have it available in May.

Jessica and Marcia both have children in the senior school in Kingswood who avail of the sensory facilities.

Jessica said: "My daughter has ADHD, she finds it very hard to sit still in school. Movement breaks are really, really important and in order to facilitate them, they need to be taken out of the classroom.

"But, sometimes they need to go to a sensory room where it's more relaxed and, at the moment, the current sensory room is in major need of an upgrade.

"There's not a lot of facilities – it's very, very basic."

The current sensory room in the senior school has a ball pit, space hoppers and some other areas with games.

However, Jessica noted that it is far below the quality of the room in St Kilian's Junior National School and kids who move on to the senior classes are not helped by the drop in quality.

The pair have received the support of the school's principal, faculty and board of management to help provide the school with a "drastically needed" improvement to the sensory facilities.

They've lined up a company from Tallaght, Murray's Sensory Division, to help fit out the room – they had previously done the same for the junior school.

Sensory mood lights and a trampoline, as well as an emphasis on cleanliness are among the plans for the new and improved space.

The two parents stated: "We also aim to purchase much needed sensory equipment for the room such as wobble chairs, ear defenders, weighted coats, and a multitude of sensory products that will help the students.

"We are trying to raise much needed funds along with the help of the board to create a new, improved, drastically needed space for the children."

Sensory rooms in schools are designed to help children with additional needs with a space to regulate their emotions and ensure that their school experience can be as enjoyable as possible.

Equipment for these rooms can run on the expensive side and the full package can often set the buyer back some thousands.

Jessica noted that the pair hope to do some fundraising events to help get the project's funding over the line.

"The additional fundraisers we're going to do is maybe do a 5k family fun or walk around Kingswood Park and try get everybody involved.

"At the moment, we're in the middle of getting leaflets printed up that will be going into every child's school bag, and we're going to drop leaflets around all the doors in Kingswood and businesses as well, if anyone is interested in helping out.

"We're thinking of things to do in-house in the school as well. My daughter suggested, if we all brought in two euro we could have a homework free day, so things like that, everybody can get on board, a little fraction of a cost – it doesn't have to be hundreds.

"Five euro or two euro or three euro here and there will help get us to the goal."

To donate, visit the 'St Kilian's SNS Sensory Room Fundraiser' page set up by Jessica and Marcia on gofundme.ie.



RELAXED: Pupils can go to the sensory room to relax

Beautiful village not helped by run down houses and 50km speed limit

RESIDENTS in Chapelizod have expressed concerns about dereliction and traffic issues in the village, with calls for pressure to be put on the council to make changes, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Instances of speeding and dereliction are visible in Chapelizod, with the "beautiful village" not helped by run-down houses and a 50km/h speed limit, according to Dublin South-Central TD Jen Cummins.

Dublin City Council own several of the properties that lie derelict, such as seven of the eleven St Mulberry's Cottages on Martin's Row currently on the derelict sites register.

Deputy Cummins said that residents requested that something be done to improve them, even suggesting that they could be used to help house the city's homeless.

The local politican said: "It is a beautiful village, it's really, really beautiful. But because there is dereliction, like every other city or town around the country, it brings it down.

"It makes it unlived in, unkempt and takes away from the rest of the village…different parts of the Main Street are owned by Dublin City Council and there needs to be pressure put on them to make sure they are on the dereliction register and to do something with them."

The Dublin South-Central TD noted that the preservation and utilisation of derelict properties in the area could enhance the streetscape of the village.

The issue of speeding in and around the village has also caused concern for residents, with calls for the local speed limit to be lowered from 50km/h to 30km/h for the entire location.



DERELICT: Several of the Mulberry Cottages in Chapelizod are owned by the council

Cyclists in the area also voiced their grievances with the condition of the cycle lanes in the village and Deputy Cummins noted that several sections of Chapelizod are "lethal."

"People are concerned with speeding; they're concerned with blind spots coming out of some of the estates.

"Speeding is a big thing. It's 50km/h there but it should really be 30km/h. It's a built-up area; there's trucks coming in and out and they're quite big and quite difficult.

"They said that, for cyclists, some parts of the village are actually lethal. There's a group of parents who are acting as traffic wardens for the schools in the morning – that's not acceptable."

DCC have indicated that a council traffic warden will be assigned to the village, but the Deputy stated that they had previously opted against doing so as it would be "too dangerous."

The problem with the recent BusConnects changes in October that saw the 26 removed and the 80 put in its place has been controversial and has disappointed residents also.

The 80 had a short-term realignment rolled out last month and a long-term change is planned for next year, having previously been expected in Q2 2026.

The delay in delivering the new merged service of the 80 and 130 from Liffey Valley to Clontarf might appeal to residents, however, as Deputy Cummins stated that residents told her they wish to "leave it as it is" right now, and that there are other bus-related issues they wish to have prioritised at the moment.

The bus route towards Lucan, which often involves a change, is not viewed as reliable by the Chapelizod locals, and many teens depend on them for commuting to their secondary schools.

"Those buses are also not as reliable. So, people are reliant – parents are driving their children to school - and it's not a good idea when they're trying to promote independence."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

92 Transition Year students and staff take part in 52km Gaisce hike



HIKE: Students and staff from St Joseph's during the hike

OVER 100 students and staff at St Joseph's College in Lucan hiked over 50 kilometres in the Wicklow Mountains National Park as part of this year's Gaisce hike, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

92 Transition Year students and 13 Fifth Year students from St Joseph's College on the Lucan Road took part in a 52km hike along with several members of the school's faculty as part of their work towards Gaisce awards.

The Gaisce Award or President's Award is Ireland's national youth award and is described as a personal development programme for young people aged 14-25.

The programme has three progressive Award Levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – and is commonly delivered in secondary schools across the country as well as third-level institutions.

For each award level, participants must undertake Challenge Area activities that fulfil Personal Skill, Community Involvement, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey requirements.

Those who took part in the school's Gaisce hike were subjected to all types of weather throughout the few days.

There were downpours on the Thursday and a mix of snow and sun on Friday before the harsher conditions cleared up on their final day.

The school noted that all participants were well kitted out with rain gear, snacks and had a determination to get through the gruelling task.

First years in St Joseph's College also raised €850 for Concern Worldwide through completing chores around their home.

The 'Chores for Change' initiative saw students clean up their homes in return for pocket money which was then placed into a pot for the charity.

A charity walk was also held to aid the fundraiser and saw the students chart a course around Lucan.

The school noted: "Each step they took and each chore completed represented a commitment to supporting families facing crises and hunger in developing nations."

Junction of Kylemore Road and Le Fanu Road to be upgraded as part of BusConnects

THE junction at Kylemore Road and Le Fanu Road in Ballyfermot will be upgraded as part of the BusConnects programme in the future, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The Kylemore Road/Le Fanu Road junction is part of future plans in the National Transport Authority's bus service upgrade programme and the local council are currently awaiting a detailed design from the NTA and the BusConnects team.

BusConnects has had a hand in changing buses across all of Dublin, including the introduction of the 80 for those in Palmerstown and Chapelizod and the F-Spines, to name a few.

The aim of the programme is to improve the bus services available to commuters across Dublin and other areas of the country.

Councillor Vincent Jackson welcomed the news and described the current situation at the Kylemore/Le Fanu junction as "bedlam."

The Ballyfermot-Drimnagh councillor told the council that he had picked up an elderly person at Father Bidone Court in Kilmainham and gave them a lift to Ballyfermot Civic Centre that lasted over 40 minutes.

Cllr Jackson said: "I'm involved in Kylemore [College] there for the last 36 years. That's our boundary on Kylemore Road and on Le Fanu Road and it's just bedlam there with cars.

"It was never like that. In the last two or three years, it's just gotten exponentially worse in every aspect and you can't turn onto Kylemore if you're going up towards Walkinstown from Le Fanu there.

"Now I know people will say, 'there's other ways to go' – it took me 43 minutes last Friday!"

Kylemore College isn't the only school affected by the traffic issues at the junction in Ballyfermot.

Councillor Daithí Doolan noted that staff at St Seton's Secondary School have had issues moving from one campus to another for different classes throughout the schoolday.

Cllr Doolan requested that the council install a filter road so that those who are commuting between the campuses on Le Fanu Road and Convent Lawns can do so without adding too much to the "traffic chaos."



UPGRADE: The junction of Kylemore Road and Le Fanu Road

The council noted that the junction appears "too narrow" to accommodate a filter lane to help alleviate some traffic and would necessitate changes to the signalling at the location, which was only changed a few years ago.

The councillor said: "They're saying the traffic alone has made life very difficult for teachers because they're trying to move between the two campuses and cars.

"So, not only are they contributing to the traffic chaos, they're part of the traffic chaos…

"…They're in between classes trying to drive up and down. It's not sustainable – they need a proper school – but in the meantime, if it could be facilitated with some traffic intervention, it would be a great help and appreciated."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



DEVELOPMENT: The Cherry Orchard LAP that includes plans for the school

Purpose-built school proposed in development plans

New school intended for children with additional needs suggested for Cherry Orchard

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A NEW purpose-built school for children with additional needs has been proposed to be included in development plans in Cherry Orchard.

The Park West-Cherry Orchard Plan identified the need for a new school in the area as St Ultan's National School is currently at capacity.

Councillor Daithí Doolan made the case for this new school to be focused on children with additional needs and said that some have to travel a long distance to avail of school facilities that meet their needs.

Cllr Doolan said: "We have children who've been told by the powers that be that, if you have autism or if you have mild to moderate special needs, that you may have to travel 40km from your home for an education. 40km.

"So, that creates huge barriers to parents and to children accessing school and I think any of us would find that unacceptable."

A suitable location for the provision of the school is identified in the southeast corner of Site 6 of the Local Area Plan, located by Park West Avenue.

In addition, the plan supports the expansion of the existing St Ultan's National School and/or the provision of an additional primary school in the lands surrounding the existing school.

Under the National Development Plan, €7.55bn will be spent on educational infrastructure between now and 2030.

€5bn of this will go towards the provision of additional capacity and the modernisation of facilities with a strong special education dimension to all projects.

Senior Executive Planner for Planning, Property and Economic Development at Dublin City Council, Michael Rossiter shared that discussions with the Department of Education and Youth has highlighted the need for more special education needs provision.

Rossiter added that this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation or space to meet this growing need.

Cllr Doolan said: "I would hope that the Department of Education would be enlightened enough to realise that that plot of land should be used to construct a state-of-the-art school that meets the needs of local children and children from surrounding communities when they have autism or mild to moderate learning difficulties.

"That those children can receive the best education that this state can afford them in their own backyard rather than having to get lifts and cars and taxis outside Dublin, beyond Dublin, to access education."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

RAMS raise €2,300 at annual Daffodil Day fundraiser



SUPPORT: RAMS during the fundraiser

THE RAMS were in Rhythm once again as they sang for shoppers at The Square in Tallaght on Daffodil Day to raise over €2,300 for the Irish Cancer Society, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Daffodil Day took place this year on Friday, March 20 and is a major annual fundraising campaign across Ireland by the Irish Cancer Society to help them provide care and support for patients and their families.

Nine of the RAMS in Rhythm were on song on Daffodil Day as they lent a hand towards the cause which is close to their hearts.

Several of their members have passed away from cancer, as well as friends and family outside of the group, and some are even fighting the battle at the moment.

RAMS Secretary Matt Dowling is currently in remission with multiple myeloma, having been diagnosed five years ago.

Dowling said: "It's one of the charities that we're very fortunate to do and very pleased to do.

"One of our members only passed away last year and he passed away at St Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown – Amby Moloney.

"He was a gentleman, a lovely man."

The group's fundraising on Daffodil Day this year marked their 10th year raising money for the Irish Cancer Society

This year, their fundraising efforts also had the support of several loved ones in the form of two wives of the members.

Secretary Dowling said: "The RAMS are always supported so well by their wives, who too came along on the day, to help with the collections and shake a bucket…

"…Many thanks to Jackie Cullen and to Deirdre Dowling for giving up their time to support this worthy cause.

"We're so pleased to raise such a considerable amount of money on the day, as there were other groups of volunteers in the centre, selling Daffodil pins, and supporting the Society."

The RAMS noted their thanks to the management of The Square for facilitating them each time they perform and sing in the shopping centre.

The RAMS in Rhythm will return to The Square in September, in support of the Bewley's Coffee morning for Our Lady's Hospice Harold's Cross.

In April, the RAMS will sing for the Simon Community at The Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin.

€7.5 million funding for Housing Adaptation Grants

FUNDING of €7,597,223 has been announced for Housing Adaptation Grants in South Dublin. Of this amount, €6,457,639 will be provided through exchequer funding and €1,139,584 through projected local authority contributions.

The funding announced for South Dublin forms part of a wider national package which will see total projected funding of over €152 million allocated nationwide. The increased funding is expected to support approximately 17,000 grant claims.

This year's allocation represents an increase of €30 million for the scheme and continues the year on year rise in funding since 2014. When combined with contributions from local authorities, the projected national funding of over €152 million for 2026 will support around 17,000 grant claims for older people and people with disabilities, helping them to live independently in their own homes.

Under the scheme, grants of up to €40,000 are available to assist people with disabilities in carrying out essential works to make their homes more suitable for their needs. Grants of up to €10,700 are also available to support older people in carrying out necessary repairs or improvements to their homes, while grants of up to €8,000 are available for mobility aids.

Speaking on the announcement, Deputy Lahart said:

"The Housing Adaptation Grant is designed to support older people and those with disabilities to live safely and comfortably in their homes. In 2025, some 15,700 grant claims were processed across the 31 local authorities.

"These grants support independent living for people in their own homes and can also help to facilitate an earlier return from hospital.

"Fianna Fáil is committed to supporting people to continue living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible."

Footballers Gift of Life



FULL RECOVERY: Kevin Rooney will take part in the Tri-Nations Gift of Life Shield and (inset) James Reynolds from Tallaght

Kevin, who had a 10% chance of survivng cance

TWELVE years ago, Kevin Rooney was told he had a 10 per cent chance of surviving cancer.

If that news wasn't bad enough, in May 2017 doctors told him that he had only a 0.1per cent chance of having children, because of the chemotherapy and radiation.

However, fast forward to today and Kevin (38) is happily married to Sorcha Conlon, and the pair have three kids Harbour Hope (7), Caoimhin (3) with the latest member of the expanding family arriving last year - Ever Blossom (10 months).

Life found a way to come "full circle" admits Newcastle resident Kevin, who this week will represent the Republic of Ireland at the first-ever Tri-Nations Gift of Life Shield which takes place on Saturday, March 28, at the AUL Complex in Dublin and features Transplant Sport Ireland, Scotland Transplant Sport and Transplant Sport Northern Ireland.

Speaking to *The Echo* ahead of the tournament, Kevin recalls his bone marrow transplant which occurred "16 years ago today."

"Just thinking of that now, I forgot it was today, March 2010," said Kevin, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2009.

"It was six months of chemotherapy and radiation. The same as the rest of them, a long road to recovery. I jumped back into college as soon as possible, worked part time then fulltime."

An avid rugby player, Kevin pushed it a bit too hard and broke ribs after returning to the game, an incident which promoted his retirement from the oval game and a concentration on sports slightly more favourable to the body.



ON THE BALL: The Ireland team

The treatment can be challenging with Kevin developing asthma from radiation and the transplant, along with osteoporosis from steroid use because of the asthma.

During treatment, he learned that he was suffering from an "extremely rare" form of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) as well as acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) with only 100 recorded cases of it



er will represent Ireland this weekend



worldwide when he was diagnosed.

Ahead of his bone marrow transplant, Kevin bunked off at St James's Hospital to propose to Sorcha, his childhood sweetheart.

In September 2010, he went back to college, and having got his primary degree, he then elected to do his master's while working part-time for pigsback.com. Sorcha did the same post-graduate degree, so they ended up in classes together. In 2015, they got married in Portugal, surrounded by their families and friends.

Today, Kevin has made a full recovery and only sees doctors for standard check ups.

Looking forward to representing his country, this is the first time Kevin will line out for the transplant side.

"Funny enough, I signed up in March 2020 but then covid happened. Life put it on the back burner, with kids populating the house, now we have three, a 7-year-old, a three year old and 10 months," said Kevin.

"The Irish transplant team has played European games before, but this is the first round robin of teams from Ireland and Scotland, hopefully Wales and England will follow for future competitions. Football is one sport I never played. I played rugby, I did play football on the astro with my Dad. The last couple of years I went to Nenagh for the transplant team that do athletics, because I was always into running and track stuff. In a short number I got roped into the football and have been playing with them since September. I'm looking forward to Saturday, training hard, doing a lot of running. Will load up on the carbs!"

James Reynolds, from Tallaght, who has undergone two kidney transplants, one in 2009 and another in 2024 when his brother Graham was the donor, is another member of the team looking forward to the tournament.

"It's a great event to show how important organ donation is. This tournament is also a great springboard for the team who are also looking forward to representing Ireland and our donors at the Transplant Football World Cup next September in Germany," said James.

According to Transplant Sport Ireland, every player on the pitch will be a transplant recipient. The Ireland squad represents 13 players from counties across the Republic, carrying between them double lung, kidney, liver, heart and bone marrow transplants spanning more than two decades of life-saving operations. Some have received multiple transplants.

The youngest transplant in the squad dates to 2025, the earliest to 1998.

Spectators, families and supporters are welcome throughout the day. Additional members of the Transplant Sport Ireland community will be present in support.

Celebration of Irish Dancing at Céilí without borders



CULTURE: Enjoying the céilí in Áras Chrónain. See photos 48 and 49

CULTURES came together to enjoy a celebration of Irish dancing at Áras Chrónáin in Clondalkin on Friday at 'Céilí Without Borders', *reports James Roulston Mooney*

Around 100 people from across the world gathered in Clondalkin in a celebration of Irish dancing on a significant week for more than one culture.

The event came three days after more than 16,000 had lined the streets of Clondalkin for the St Patrick's Day Parade and was held during Eid al-Fitr, which marked the end of Ramadan and the breaking of fasting.

The free community event was organised by South Dublin County Partnership and the woman who led the charge noted that they wanted people to enjoy themselves and celebrate community.

South Dublin County Partnership's Leah Speight said: "It was a great turnout, it was a great event.

"It was the week of St Patrick's Day, and it was also the day of Eid, so we just wanted to have a fun community event where people could come together and enjoy themselves – a family fun day out."

Those who attended got to enjoy live Irish dancing performances from Clondalkin group Scoil Rince Erica.

The young dancers put on a show and wowed spectators with their talents in the Irish cultural centre.

Councillor Francis Timmons was in the Irish Cultural Centre on the day and described it as "a really inclusive, lovely event."

Cllr Timmons said: "Many people from different countries joined the Irish in a celebration of our great Irish culture of céilís.

"We were all united in Irish music and dancing…it was great to learn more and share our rich traditions in Irish music."

The idea for the Céilí Without Borders' event came to Leah Speight and the team at South Dublin County Partnership after a dance workshop they organised showcased similarities between Irish dancing and the traditional dances of other cultures.

The workshop was about the history and tradition of each culture's dances and saw people from across the world share their culture through teaching the steps of these dances.

A Palestinian dance was among those taught in the workshops, alongside Greek and Nigerian.

A Dakbeh performance closed out Céilí Without Borders, led by the same person who had taught it in the workshops, and Speight noted the similarities between the traditional Palestinian dance and traditional Irish dance.

Speight noted: "One of the common themes we discovered was, no matter where in the world your traditional dance came from, they all had a history of bringing community together…

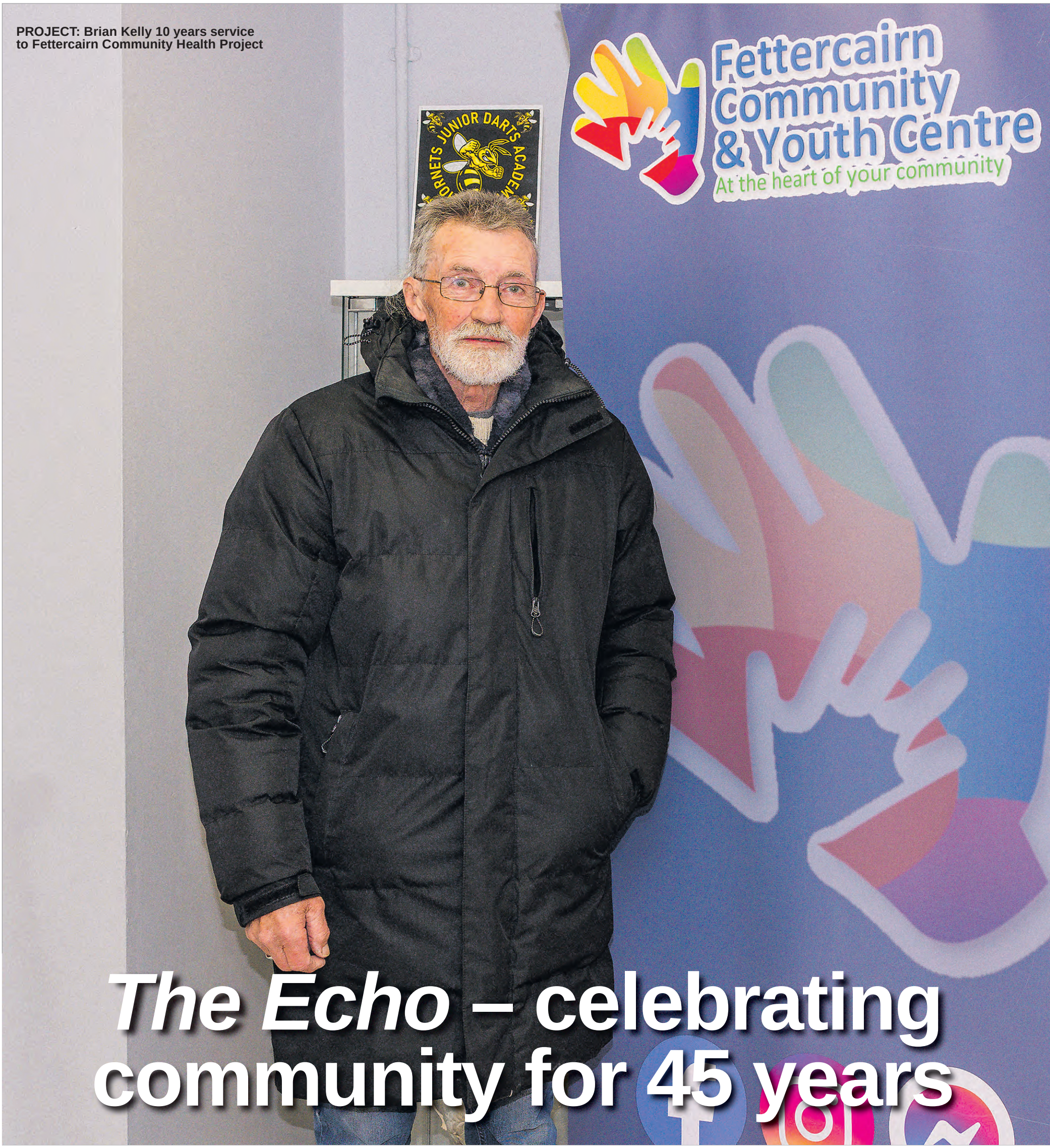
"…But there was a resistance element of our dancing as well that we were able to keep. Iirsh dancing now is worldwide and it's a huge phenomenon, which is great, but we had to fight for that as Irish people.

"So, I think we can connect that sometimes with the Palestinian people."



LOVELY EVENT: Lynn, Iona, Aideen and Fikria

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating 45 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last four years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, ***Ken Doyle*** talks to Brian Kelly, community volunteer in Fettercairn



PROJECT: Brian Kelly 10 years service to Fettercairn Community Health Project

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



DEDICATED: Brian Kelly was previously chairman and vice-chairman of Fettercairn Community Centre

FROM the second Fettercairn's Brian Kelly sits down to talk to me, he insists that the valuable voluntary work he does in his community isn't any big deal and that anyone would do it.

Here at *The Echo*, our business is to disavow him of that notion because it's people like Brian who make communities work and for countless years, he's been at the sharp end of community work in Fettercairn.

"I'm not looking for medals or stripes," Brian tells me, hammering the point home, "I'll have to think of a few spoofs to tell you to make myself sound interesting!" He adds with a laugh.

Brian started life in Crumlin, Cashel Avenue to be exact, and was educated at Clogher Road Tech. "I left school when I was thirteen and got a job at the old Raleigh Ireland plant on the quays." I suggest that it must have been a cool job for a young fella back then and he laughs and says "Believe me, it was in no way cool. I was sticking spokes in wheels all day, it's not as if I was riding round on the bikes testing them out!"

He then moved on to some years as a clerk at a legal firm on Dame Street and numerous different positions followed. He did a couple of years at The Independent and laboured on building sites before eventually becoming a qualified plumber, mostly working on houses as a pipefitter. As he puts it himself, "I did anything and everything to keep the wolf from the door. I just went where the work was over the years and we managed okay."

Life was about to change for Brian in a big way. 49 years ago, he married his beloved Helena and three years later, they would move to their forever home in Fettercairn. It's fair to say they loved it straight away, and Brian got stuck right into community work as soon as they arrived.

"I suppose you could say the first voluntary work I ever did was with Fettercairn Football Club. At different times I looked after the teams from under nines to under fourteens and it was a great time. My two sons Daniel and David were decent players in their day and they were involved too. It was a great time. I've always been a football man and that was the first time I was ever involved in the administrative side of the game. I enjoyed every second of it."

Not long after, Brian started volunteering with Fettercairn Community Centre helping out with all of the activities the Centre provided for the local populace. Brian was so skilled at dealing with people and so dedicated to the place that fifteen years ago, they elected him to the board. As time went on, the value of Brian's contributions were noticed (even if he didn't notice it himself) and he was elected to successful stints as Vice Chairperson and Chairperson.

"The facility we have now up in Fettercairn is fantastic and we run all sorts of programs for the local people. I've been at the heart of things like the annual summer project and the Christmas disco which are huge parts of our calendar and are always great craic."

Although Brian is based in Fettercairn, his good work hasn't been limited to his own area. Far from it. And he's picked up many skills along the way.

"Well it's been a very personally enriching process but I wanted to help people less fortunate no matter where they were, so I became a Drama Teacher at St Anne's School with James Butler. I actually also taught chess there and we had some great young players with us at the time."

Another skill Brian was trained in was jewellery-making and he would soon put that to good use. "I had a lovely period working with the people from Cheeverstown doing jewellery classes with them. It was brilliant and very therapeutic for them. It was fantastic to see the pride in their faces when they presented their finished pieces. It's amazing to see the change in people when you help focus their minds on something, especially something with an end result. They were very happy years."

"I also taught Drama at the Mount Street Club from 1999 to 2002 and there we worked with people from the Irish Wheelchair Association. One of my proudest achievements was when we put on a play at a hall in Islandbridge. It was a huge success and hopefully a lot of the people who took part have great memories of it, because I certainly do."

Not content with all of this, Brian volunteered for two years with St John of God's which he loved and he's given 10 years service to Fettercairn Community Health Project. Add to that the seven years volunteering at an after-school club in Brookfield for kids aged from 8 to 12.

Brian has also, at last count, been Santy five times and he does a mean Donald Trump impression too.

In a desperate last minute bid to move the attention away from himself, Brian starts waxing lyrical about all of the people he works with. He singles out for special praise Debbie Lee-Byrne, the Centre Manager (the captain of the ship according to Brian!). "I'd also like to thank Adam, Rory, Rebecca and all of the workers and board members, along with the people of Fettercairn who make what I do such a complete joy."

Brian has no plans yet to slow down and he sees the future of Fettercairn as very bright. He's a contented man, settled in his beloved Fettercairn with Helena and now, Daniel and David have provided 5 grandchildren to keep him on his toes, namely Amy, Hannah, Aaron, Conor and Seán.

"We're here at the foot of the mountains. The view is great and the people are fantastic. Where else would I want to be?"



VOLUNTEER: Brian Kelly volunteered with St John of God for two years

E letters

Letters and emails should be kept as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Letters must be received by Tuesday, 3pm prior to publication

Huge thanks to the people of Tallaght for a great St Patrick's Day parade

Dear Letters Editor

I WOULD appreciate *Echo* space to thank everybody involved in the great success of the 2026 Tallaght St Patrick's Day Parade.

Great credit is due to South Dublin County Council, under the leadership of CEO Colm Ward and his staff involved and the extended organising committee.

The local Garda operation is deserving of much praise and I make special mention of Inspector Pat Duggan.

Last week's *Tallaght Echo* reported that the Tallaght Parade was attended by "over 20,000" - and "if it's in *The Echo* it's true!" It was certainly the biggest crowd I have ever seen at our Parade.

Led by the Tallaght Marching Band, the Tallaght Parade included many local groups and organisations all whom impressed greatly. Special mention should be given to the Council's Library involvement.

Congratulations to all the participants in the Tallaght Parade. A big thanks to all the great staff in Cafe Aon Sceal, Tallaght Village, who were so supportive. I wish to personally thank Councillor Mick Duff and congratulate Mayor Pamela Kearns and her colleagues. I also warmly acknowledge the great coverage of the Tallaght Parade in the *Tallaght Echo*, well done indeed.

Finally a huge thanks to the people of Tallaght for their great support.

It was such an honour for me to serve in the role. Here's now to 2027

Charlie O'Connor
Grand Marshal
2026 Tallaght St Patrick's Day Parade.



GREAT SUCCESS: Grand Marshal Charlie O'Connor driven around ahead of the start of the parade in Tallaght. Photo by Ben Ryan

Village Enhancement Scheme needs to strike a fair balance for residents

Dear editor;

I FOUND myself thinking of Aidan Thomas (RIP) several times this week while preparing my submission to the Part 8 Village Enhancement Scheme.

He was a consistent and passionate voice in this newspaper, often challenging South Dublin County Council on what he saw as poor planning decisions affecting Tallaght Village.

His advocacy reflected a deep care for the area and a desire to see it reach its full potential.

In many ways, his concerns remain relevant today.

As new proposals are considered, it is important that the lessons he highlighted are not forgotten, and that future development genuinely serves the needs, character, and long-term vitality of the village.

My family has lived on this street for five generations, and during that entire time residents have always had the ability to park outside their homes.

This arrangement has worked well for decades and has formed part of the normal functioning of the street for the people who live here.

While I welcome thoughtful improvements to the public realm, I am concerned that the current proposal would remove long-standing residential parking in order to create space primarily intended for occasional passers-by rather than the residents who live on the street every day.

In its current form, the proposal risks disadvantaging long-term residents without delivering a clear benefit to the local community that actually lives here.

For households like mine, on-street parking is not simply a convenience but a practical necessity for daily life, including family needs, visitors, and essential services.

I am particularly concerned that no meaningful survey or consultation of residents appears to have been carried out in relation to these proposals.

The absence of direct engagement risks creating a situation where those who live here are treated as second-class stakeholders, despite being the people most affected on a daily basis.

I believe it is important that any street enhancement strikes a fair balance between improving the public realm and protecting the practical needs of existing residents.

Retaining some level of resident parking would help achieve that balance while still allowing improvements to proceed.

Jacqueline Kelly,
Main Street,
Tallaght Village



PLANNING DECISIONS: Submission have been submitted for the Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme

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March 26, 2026

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DEVELOPMENT: Michelle O'Flynn, Property / Development Director, O'Flynn Group, An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, Michael O'Flynn, Founder and CEO, O'Flynn Group, Minister for Housing James Browne, John Coleman, CEO, LDA and Sharon Geraghty, Chief of Staff, LDA, at the LDA and the O'Flynn Group announcement of plans to deliver 542 new homes on the Naas Road in Dublin 12

LDA to buld 542 new homes on Naas Road site

Scheme when completed will provide 1,140 new homes along with hotel and retail units

THE Land Development Agency (LDA) in partnership with the O'Flynn Group has announced plans to deliver 542 new homes on the Naas Road in Dublin 12.

The new A-rated apartments are being delivered as part of Southwest Gate, a landmark residential scheme.

The granted scheme is being developed by the O'Flynn Group and, when completed, will provide for 1,140 new homes along with additional uses such as a hotel, ancillary retail and commercial accommodation.

A further three acres are also available for future development.

The project has been masterplanned by the O'Flynn Group with an emphasis on creating a vibrant and sustainable community for future residents in what is a key quarter of Dublin City.

The first phase of 542 new homes is being delivered by the LDA and the O'Flynn Group through the Project Tosaigh homebuilder partnership initiative.

This is where the Agency partners with private homebuilders, providing the financial stimulus required to ensure the construction and completion of new homes.

The completed homes are then owned by the LDA and made available as cost rental or sold by the LDA in partnership with local authorities through affordable purchase schemes.

In this case, all 542 new homes will be made available as cost rental. Cost rental is a relatively new tenure, which provides a secure, long term rental option with rents at least 25% below market rates.

The tenure is designed to assist those who do not qualify for social housing or other state housing supports, but who are struggling to afford to rent in the private market.

Separately, this phase of the development will also see O'Flynn Group deliver 52 Social homes.

Southwest Gate has been carefully designed and planned to enhance both future residents' lives and the wider community by combining modern city living with essential social infrastructure.

The development is well-located with excellent connectivity to Dublin City Centre. The Red Luas Line runs past Southwest Gate and the M50 and M7 are within easy reach.

The area is also well-served by bus routes and high-quality cycling routes.

Southwest Gate is also located near to other major LDA housing developments.

The Agency has secured planning permission to develop 383 new homes at Bluebell Waterways, which is located beside the 5th Lock of the Grand Canal.

It also recently acquired the Royal Liver Site on the Naas Road, which has the potential to deliver over 1,200 new homes. The Royal Liver Site is located opposite Southwest Gate.

An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, said: "This development at Southwest Gate is a significant step in increasing the supply of affordable and social housing in Dublin. Developments of this scale are essential to meeting demand and building sustainable communities in well-connected locations.

"The Government remains focused on accelerating delivery through record levels of investment in the provision of housing and a strong pipeline of projects nationwide. It is encouraging to see this site developing at such pace, and I acknowledge the coordinated work of the LDA and its partners in bringing it forward.

Football club granted plannng for coffee shop at its new clubhouse

KILNAMANAGH AFC have been granted planning permission to add more community features to their new clubhouse, including a coffee shop, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Work is almost complete on the club's €500k state-of-the-art clubhouse on Treepark Road.

The club submitted an altered planning request in January this year seeking amendments to the previous approved application to "facilitate new coffee shop unit at ground floor and a school aged childcare unit at part of first floor level".

According to the new floor plans submitted, the ground floor layout will be reconfigured to have the coffee unit operate out of a corner room in the club house alongside the changing rooms.

The first floor will be reconfigured and replace the previously proposed board room, visitor's room/canteen and activity room with a smaller activity room and a shared school aged childcare/club activity area "that will be used during primary school term, with area remaining for club activity use at all other times".

The plant room and storage will also be moved upstairs to make way for the coffee unit below.

Granting permission for the alterations on March 12, the council's planning department said that the plans "would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of the property in the vicinity".

They also added that the addition of the childcare/activity area was "considered to be consistent with the relevant policies and objectives of the South Dublin County Development Plan" and would represent a positive addition to the area as well as "contributing to the social and community needs of the locality".



FACILITY: Kilnamanagh Football Club's new clubhouse

E business

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Áine pick up Guaranteed Irish Business Award

Lucan entrepreneur brand was launched in 2022 from her attic

THE 2026 Guaranteed Irish Business Awards, took place at The Dublin Royal Convention Centre and among the companies recognised was the Smooth Company which is based in Lucan.

Now in their fifth year, the annual awards shine a spotlight on Ireland's leading businesses that are committed to supporting jobs, communities and provenance.

Over 400 guests enjoyed a delicious meal crafted from locally sourced ingredients, supplied by several Guaranteed Irish members. The evening was hosted by Irish TV and radio personality Marty Whelan, who kept the crowd entertained with his personable style, warmth, and well-known charm.

Entrepreneur Áine Kennedy launched her business in 2022 from her attic to revolutionise haircare with innovative products designed to simplify routines and deliver salon-quality results at home.

Today, her brand has customers in 70 countries and she was awarded with the Beauty and Wellbeing.

An independent panel of distinguished industry leaders from names including Matheson, An Post, Musgrave, PTSB, Viatel Technology Group and FBD Insurance, had the tough task of shortlisting a total of 84 companies, after whittling down hundreds of entries.

Brid O'Connell, CEO Guaranteed Irish, commented; "Now in its fifth year, the Guaranteed Irish Business Awards continue to showcase the very best of Irish enterprise. Businesses that support each other's supply chains, continuously innovate, and are deeply committed to supporting jobs, communities and provenance. This year's winners, from Insomnia as Business of the Year, Ballymore in Construction to The Smooth Company in the beauty category, the winners demonstrate the scale of ambition and impact that exists across our membership and within Irish business today".

Speaking to the Awards, Patrick Farrell, Chief Retail Banking Officer at PTSB, said: Speaking to the Awards, Patrick Farrell, Chief Retail Banking Officer at PTSB, said: "Guaranteed Irish continues to champion the strength, innovation, and resilience of Irish businesses at both local and international levels. As a bank dedicated exclusively to the Irish market, PTSB is honoured to partner once again with the Guaranteed Irish team to celebrate the businesses that play such a vital role in supporting communities, driving economic growth, and showcasing Irish excellence on a global stage. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of the winners this year. Their achievements reflect the exceptional talent, ambition, and commitment that define Irish enterprise. It is a privilege to recognise and celebrate the positive impact these businesses are making through providing local employment, community development, and forward looking innovation."



AWARD: Áine Kennedy receives her award

Drinks company C&C purchase Innis & Gunn

DRINKS company C&C Group bought the Innis & Gunn beer brand from the Scottish company's administrators for £4.5m, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Headquartered at Bulmers House, in Crumlin, C&C has been a small minority shareholder and a brewing partner for Innis & Gunn for years.

According to C&C, the deal is an attractive opportunity for the group to further broaden its branded portfolio with a premium well-established brand.

"The integration of Innis & Gunn into the group is expected to present a very low execution risk, with the brand being fully absorbed into the group's existing operational, commercial and supply chain infrastructure," C&C said.

"As a result, the Board anticipates a rapid operational transition and minimal disruption to the business.

"The acquisition of Innis & Gunn reinforces our belief in the value of strong brands and the importance of our integrated manufacturing supply, marketing and sales business model.

The deal is being funded from existing C&C facilities and expected to make a small positive contribution to C&C's overall financial performance in the coming year.

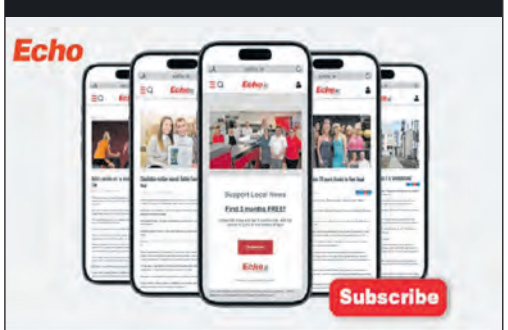
Roger White, C&C's chief executive, said the company have worked with Innis & Gunn for many years and whilst it is under difficult circumstances, C&C is delighted to bring the brand fully into its portfolio.

"This is a compelling and highly synergistic opportunity to save a well-loved brand for which we currently brew most of the product," the CEO said.



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TU Dublin honour students at Spring conferring ceremony

Graduates in business, engineering and digital and data complete studies

TECHNOLOGICAL University Dublin (TU Dublin) celebrated the achievements of its newest graduates at its Spring Conferring Ceremonies on Friday on the University's Tallaght Campus.

Graduates from across the Faculties of Engineering, Built Environment and Apprenticeships; Business; Computing, Digital and Data; Arts and Humanities; and Science and Health gathered with family, friends and staff to mark the completion of their studies and the beginning of the next stage of their professional journeys.

Addressing the ceremonies, the President of TU Dublin, Dr Deirdre Lillis, congratulated graduates on their determination and resilience throughout their studies.

"Graduation is one of the happiest days in our academic year – a day of achievement, pride and joy, and perhaps a little relief as well. Each of you has travelled your own path to reach this moment, balancing study with work, family commitments and many other responsibilities. Through it all, you persevered, adapted and succeeded. You are now proud graduates of TU Dublin, and that achievement will stay with you for life."

Graduate outcomes remain a key indicator of the strength of the University's educational approach. According to the most recent HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey, TU Dublin is ranked number one in Dublin for graduate employability across both undergraduate honours and taught postgraduate programmes for the second consecutive year. More than seven in ten graduates secure employment within nine months of completing their studies, reflecting the strong value of a TU Dublin education.

Throughout the day's ceremonies, the University also celebrated outstanding academic achievement across a wide range of disciplines. Among those recognised was Nour Alkaluti, a graduate of the Child, Family and Community Studies programme on the Blanchardstown Campus, who achieved a first-class award and completed a dissertation examining Palestinian resilience.

Graduates of the MSc in Applied Cyber Security – supported by Workday – were also recognised for their work addressing emerging challenges at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, including research into AI-assisted threat modelling and compliance with the EU AI Act.

The University also celebrated exceptional academic distinction among its graduates, including Adrienne Harding, a TU Dublin staff member who achieved Gold Medal status in the MSc in Digital and Content Marketing, and Rachael Lamb, whose dissertation on AI and creativity received international recognition from the European Institute for Education in Commercial Communications.



GRADUATION: Students at the ceremony in TU Dublin Tallaght Campus

Seetec recognised with the great place to work award

SEETEC Ireland, an employee-owned company, has been officially recognised as one of Ireland's Best Workplaces™ 2026, and was also presented with the High Performing Culture Award at this year's awards ceremony hosted by Great Place to Work™ in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin.

While this is a national recognition, it shines a light on the important work being done in South West Dublin, where Seetec delivers public employment services as an Intreo Partner for the Department of Social Protection.

The local team partners with local employers to support jobseekers in their efforts to secure sustainable employment.

Noeleen Nannery, Operations Director, said about the achievement for their teams and community:

"I'm very proud that we've been recognised as one of the best workplaces in Ireland. This recognition reflects the dedication and commitment of our staff in South West Dublin. We are proud that our colleagues feel valued supported and empowered to do their best work."

Vicky O'Reilly, Area Manager for Dublin South, added:

"We remain committed to supporting our people so they can continue doing meaningful work that makes a real difference in the communities and for the individuals we serve."



AWARD: Cormac Gallagher, Employee Council & Operations Excellence Specialist (Seetec Ireland) and Noeleen Nannery, Operations Director (Seetec Ireland) accepting the High Performing Culture award at this year's ceremony, from Brian Sutton, Client Relationship Manager (Great Place to Work).

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Appeal lodged by owners of landmark house over council's decision



LANDMARK: The Rosebank and Rosebank Lodge properties

Plans to convert Rosebank and Rosebank Lodge into homeless accommodation hub

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

OWNERS of a landmark house in Rathfarnham have lodged an appeal after the council ruled their plans to convert it into a homeless accommodation hub was not an exempted development.

South Dublin County Council issued a decision to Sinnulis Ltd on February 9, 2026, that their use of Rosebank and Rosebank Lodge as homeless accommodation "constitutes development, does not constitute exempted development and would thus require planning permission".

However, they have now lodged an appeal against the council's decision with An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Rosebank is a two-storey, eight-bedroom property while Rosebank Lodge, the smaller of the two buildings, is a single-storey one-bed property close to the site's entrance.

"The subject site comprises two residential properties which were previously used to provide medium to long-term accommodation to homeless families, however, has since been vacant since 2014," the planning report to the council stated.

In their appeal lodged on March 12, Sinnulis Ltd said that the proposals to use the two buildings to "provide residential accommodation to homeless families, where no care or support services are provided, constitutes a continuation of the established residential use".

"Whilst it is contended that the Planning Authority erred in its approach to formulating a decision, the proposed use does not cease the residential use established on site and would not be representative of homeless accommodation use under Class 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001," the appeal read.

They also noted that the proposed development "does not and has never provided care to residents", no staff would live on site and that "no element of care, be it social, physical or emotional will be provided to residents at this property".

"Recent planning precedents from Dublin City Council and An Coimisiún Pleanála reinforce the position that the continued residential use of properties to accommodate homeless persons without care provision does not constitute development," they added.

South Dublin County Council confirmed their decision in a letter responding to the appeal on Wednesday, March 18.

"The issues raised in the appeal have been covered in the Chief Executive Order," they said.

A decision is due from An Coimisiún Pleanála by July 13, 2026.

Restaurant proposals lodged for former post office and beauty salon in The Square

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

A PLANNING application has been lodged to merge a former post office and beauty salon at The Square in Tallaght into a restaurant.

The proposed development would see "amalgamation (including removal of internal mezzanine areas) and change of use of Units U133ABC (former An Post) and U133D (former Bodytalk) from Post Office and Retail Use respectively to accommodate a restaurant/ takeaway unit (243sqm) for consumption of hot food on and off the premises", according to the planning application lodged on Wednesday, March 11.

It would also include modifications to "existing shopfront signage, new tenant sign on eastern elevation and all associated site and development works".

The former An Post unit at Belgard Square East closed in early November 2024 when the new post office unit located within The Square Shopping Centre itself opened that same month.

The move came after the Tallaght An Post branch was acquired by a postmaster and privatised earlier that year, who decided to relocate the branch to a unit on the second floor beside Dunnes Stores.

Third party observations and submissions regarding this planning application can be made up until April 14, with a decision due by May 5, 2026.



APPLICATION: The former post office in The Square

property

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Modern warehouse on market for €850,000 at Crag Avenue

The Property is two end-of-terrace units in Clondalkin Industrial Estate

A MODERN and spacious warehouse unit, conveniently located in Clondalkin near major transport routes, is on the market for €850,000.

Units 5 & 6 are two end-of terrace units at Crag Avenue Business Park, Clondalkin Industrial Estate.

The property has a new double skin metal deck roof with translucent roof light and concrete blockwork walls and 2 large electric roller shutters.

The unit has an energy efficient C1 BER rating with 3 phase electricity power supply, fluorescent strip lighting and a clear eaves height of 5.7 meters with polished concrete floor as well as a 148 sq.m. mezzanine floor with a metal deck floor, timber slab floor covering and 2 storerooms.

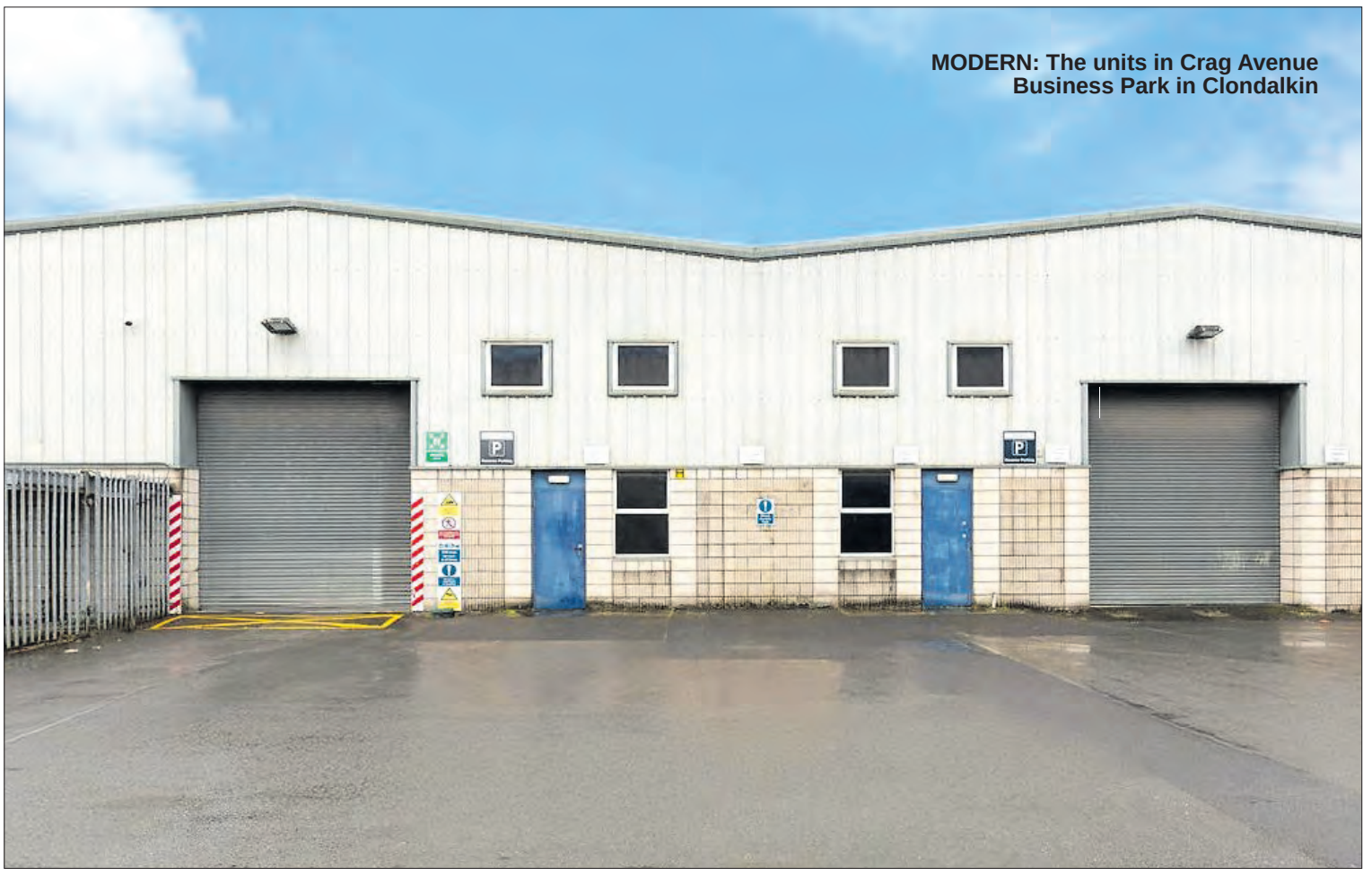
This is an excellent opportunity to acquire a modern warehouse unit with 10 surface car parking spaces in an established industrial park, conveniently located within a short driving distance of from the M50 motorway, and 3.3 kilometres from Junction 9 Red Cow roundabout and the N7 Naas Road which links to the north west and south of the country.

Clondalkin Industrial Estate is located approximately 12 km to the west of Dublin City Centre and approximately 2 kilometres to the north of Clondalkin Town Centre, which has a host of shopping facilities for staff including the Mill Shopping Centre.

Some of the adjoining occupiers include Extraspace, 3 Rock, Circet, BPM Supplies, Greyhound Recycling and Echelon Data Centre.

Commercial rates for the unit are 4,524.80 euro per annum, while the service charge/ building insurance is approximately 4,000 euro p.a.

For more information contact Robert Colleran Property Consultants Ltd.



MODERN: The units in Crag Avenue Business Park in Clondalkin

Cookstown vacant industrial unit available for lease



LEASE: Unit for lease in Cookstown Industrial Estate

A 26,210 sq.ft. semi-detached industrial facility in the Cookstown Industrial estate is now vacant and available for lease.

Unit 13/B1 benefits from an internal eave height of approximately 5.5 metres, with a sealed concrete floor, LED lighting and two automated roller shutter doors opening onto an enclosed yard that wraps around the side and rear of the building.

The recently refurbished office space measures 7,491 sq. ft and is located to the front of the building over ground and first floors.

They feature painted and plastered walls, suspended ceilings with recessed lighting, electric storage heating, CAT 5 perimeter trunking, triple glazed PVC windows, along with kitchenette and toilet facilities.

Situated in the heart of Tallaght and only minutes from the M50, the property provides seamless access to the Greater Dublin Area and is within a 30-minute drive of Dublin Airport.

The property offers direct access to Dublin City Centre and the wider national motorway network, ensuring an efficient commute for staff and clients.

The property is also served well by public transport with the Belgard Luas stop located just 800m to the northeast.

Amenities in the immediate area include a Circle K service station, The Square Tallaght Shopping Centre and TU Dublin Tallaght Campus.

Notable occupiers in the surrounding area include Howdens Kitchens, Karl Goodwin Motors and Fedex reflecting the area's strong reputation as a leading business hub in South West Dublin.

The property is available for immediate occupation, with rent negotiable.

Viewings are strictly by appointment with sole leasing agents Colliers.

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Advertorial

Why haven't I heard back after applying for a job?

The Career Expert with Sarah Louise

The silence can be frustrating, especially when you felt the application or interview went well. However, in most cases, the reason has very little to do with you personally



Sarah Louise

ONE of the most common questions I get asked as a recruitment expert is, Why haven't I heard back after applying for a job or even after an interview?"

The silence can be frustrating, especially when you felt the application or interview went well. However, in most cases, the reason has very little to do with you personally.

Firstly, hiring processes often take longer than candidates expect. Employers may be interviewing several people and will usually wait until all interviews are completed before making a final decision.

Even when a company is impressed with a candidate, they still need to compare skills, experience, and overall fit before offering the role. Recruitment rarely moves as quickly as jobseekers would like, and delays are very common.

Another very common reason is internal delays. Hiring decisions often need approval from multiple people, including HR, senior management, and sometimes finance departments.

If one key decision-maker is on leave, busy, or unavailable, the whole process can slow down. Candidates are not always aware of what is happening behind the scenes, which can make the wait feel even longer.

Sometimes the reality is that the employer liked you, but another candidate had slightly more experience or was a closer match for the position.

This can be disappointing, but it does not mean you did anything wrong. In recruitment, the final decision often comes down to very small differences.

There are also situations where the role changes, gets put on hold, or is filled internally due to budgets or company restructuring. Unfortunately, companies do not always communicate these updates as clearly as they should.

My advice is simple follow up professionally, keep applying, and don't lose confidence. Silence doesn't always mean rejection; sometimes it just means the decision hasn't been made yet.



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Risteard Cooper brings 'Out of His Head' to the Civic

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie



RAZOR-SHARP: Actor, comedian, singer and writer Risteard Cooper brings his show to the Civic

'OUT of His Head' is a "spanking" new solo comedy show bursting with "razor-sharp" impressions, sketches and "absurd imaginings" from the co-creator of Après Match coming to the Civic.

Actor, comedian, singer, and writer Risteard Cooper's first live solo show takes on the heady subjects of the world around us now, then, and in the future, and draws "no obvious conclusions."

It covers topics such as "what's happening? Why is it happening? Where did it all go wrong? And who cares?"

'Out of His Head' also features skits from the world of television, journalism, politics, the arts, entertainment and sport.

Audiences can expect a "dizzying mix" of various personalities in this unmissable show.

This week, we sat down with Risteard to discuss 'Out of His Head', which performs in the Civic Theatre on April 2; the show is presented by Storied Management with a runtime of 90 minutes and an interval.

Age suitability is 15 years old and over; tickets are on sale now and can be booked through the Civic website or box office.

What inspired 'Out of His Head'?

I've had the idea of doing a solo show for a long time, really. I've always written and performed sketches, right back to when I was a nipper, and then as part of Après Match and more recently with Off The Ball and Risteárd's Republic, which was what kept me relatively sane during the pandemic. I've had a lot of ideas in my head over the years, and this show is the culmination of everything I can bring to the table. Comedy sketches, acting, observations, impressions, poems, skits, songs and general silliness. People outside of this business have always reminded me that it must help that I'm "out of my head". They might have a point, hence the title.

Without giving too much away, what can audiences expect?

There are a lot of favourite impressions peppered throughout, and I explore certain characters in unusual settings. There's a bit of current affairs, the state of us, media coverage, news coverage, showbiz and sports sketches, and parodies of the world we're in.

Are you nervous going into your first live solo show, or are you feeling confident? Could it be a mixture of both?

It's always a big undertaking to do any live performance. But to write and perform a solo show is a big investment of time and energy, and there's a risk underpinning the whole thing. You hope it will be as good as can be, but you're never sure if people will laugh when you're starting to perform new material. Like, I was nervous when I started the process and when I did the work-in-progress shows back in September '25, but I've worked really hard on it, and I'm enjoying the energy from the audiences now; it's an amazing and incomparable buzz. I've just done the Pavilion in Dun Laoghaire, and it was a blast, so if the rest of the gigs on this tour are anything like that, happy days.

What has been your favourite part of working on this show so far, and why?

I think I'm coming up with ideas. Batting them around in your mind and on the page, and then seeing them develop into laughs. Within that, it could be nailing a new impression or finding an original angle on a subject.

What have been some of the biggest challenges you have faced during this production, and how have you navigated them?

I've performed the show in very different venues and varied locations, so I suppose tailoring the material to each audience is a challenge. But it's a welcome challenge. The first date on this tour was the intimate but gorgeous Friar's Gate in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, so the jokes and observational stuff were pretty different from what I did at The Pavilion. For example, doing a piss take of, say, David McWilliams may not resonate in Limerick as much as it would in his back garden, Dun Laoghaire.

What is next for you? Do you have anything else planned for 2026?

A few invites to perform in comedy festivals, so looking forward to those.

Who would you like to thank for helping you with this show?

My wife, Suzanne, and everyone who has hounded me relentlessly to write my own show. My agent Jane Russell and Deirdre Molloy at Storied Management and my pal, the director Ian Fitzgibbon, who was a vital overseeing eye in rehearsal.



Culture Day

IN ST MARK'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.

You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on ***echo.ie***



Khadija and Hilda



Students in St Mark's Community School proudly showing their colours



Lucija and Lily



Vanessa and Melissa



Carla and Tori



Maria, Alitza and Belvina



Nicole and Sophia



Bobby, Scott, Jered and Prince

Adam nominated for Young Filmmaker award and Animation award

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"ADAM has had an interest in animation for several years." explain Linda Kerr, JCSP Librarian, and Vaughan Byrne, media studies teacher at Killinarden Community School (KCS).

6th Year KCS student Adam Mooney has been nominated for Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year and the Animation Ireland Award.

He uses an app to create frame-by-frame animations on his phone. He does not use a stylus, only his finger to draw each frame.

Adam is hoping to pursue animation as a career, and this is his first step along the way.

'Running Late' is a film about Jacko trying to make it to school on time. His teacher has told him he will get detention if he is late again, but Jacko runs into trouble along the way in this colourful and engaging animation.

KCS previously had a student make a film a few years ago that was entered into the Fresh Film Festival.

Their whole class went to see its screening, as it was their first school trip since Covid; "it was a big deal."

Students then started coming to the library saying they wanted to make a film too.

Linda and Vaughan explain "that's when we applied for a Google Community Grant to turn an unused room in the library into a studio."

That is how Backroom Studios was born. KCS now has a film club that has made movies for the Fresh Film Festival and won awards at the JCSP Academy Film Awards (JAFAs) in the Lighthouse Cinema.

School management has continually supported KCS's filmmaking efforts. Recently retired principal Ms Adrienne Whelan was a "huge champion" of Backroom Studios, and new principal Ms Gillian White has continued that support.

This has fostered a culture of visual storytelling within the school. Adam has spent many hours in Backroom Studios working on 'Running Late' with the support of the whole school.

Adam's family has always supported his love of drawing and animation. He "couldn't have done any of it without them", according to Linda and Vaughan. Adam is also mentoring young animators within the school; that has led to his character Jacko meeting another student's character in a collaborative work on YouTube.

The school as a whole is "thrilled" that Adam is up for Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year.

They are "stunned" at the level of professionalism displayed in 'Running Late', and Linda and Vaughan conclude that "we as a school community are all behind him".

Adam's film 'Running Late' will be screened at the Mansion House on March 26; it is currently available to watch on the Fresh Film YouTube channel.



ANIMATION: Former student Rachel McAvoy and Adam Mooney and (inset): Katheen Moran, Senior Librarian of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project, Linda Kerr, JCSP Librarian at Killinarden Community School, and Adam Mooney as he wins Best Animation at the 2025 JAFAs

Open Mic Nights great success for drama group

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"ALL those in attendance had great craic at our pre-St Patrick's Day open mic night," beams Lucan Drama PRO Officer David Doyle.

Lucan Drama recently held another of its Open Mic Nights upstairs at Courtney's of Lucan Village, where poetry, drama, storytelling and singers provided a "great" free night's entertainment over almost three hours.

"From the mating habits of penguins to losing the TV remote control and all points in between," laughs David.

Lucan Drama would like to again thank all the staff in Courtney's of Lucan who always go over and above in their efforts to provide us with a great performance space and a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere.



DRAMA: The cast and crew of 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane'

This is their first big event of 2026, having had a productive 2025 including a successful four-night run of autumn one-act plays in October.

They rounded out the year with the All-Ireland One-Act Drama circuit, where James Goodman directed Nancy Harris's psychological thriller 'Little Dolls', starring Erin Lynch and Connor Hillman.

This production was runner-up in the 2025 Enniskillen Drama Festival and performed in Enniskillen, Gorey, Castleblaney, Ballymahon, and Skerries between October and November 2025.

Next up for Lucan Drama is their upcoming production of The Beauty Queen of Leenane in April. This will be their first production of 2026 and will run from April 13 to 16.

This dark comedy, written by Martin McDonagh, is a multi-award-winning drama, and Lucan Drama are "thrilled" to bring this play to the people of Lucan.

The group will also be presenting their annual evening of one-act plays, which will run from May 25 to 28.

Lucan Drama is also "very proud" to announce that they will be performing 3 World Premieres across this run; all 3 pieces have been written by members of the group.

Tickets will be on sale for their production of 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' soon, so be sure to keep an eye on their socials @Lucan Drama or on www.linktr.ee/lucandrama.

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> "I don't share blame. I don't share credit. And I don't share desserts.
>
> *Beverly Sills*

Food with Passion

WHITE CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY BROWN BUTTER BLONDIES

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



If you're searching for a bake that delivers pure wow with minimal effort, these Out of This World White Chocolate & Raspberry Blondies are about to become your new go to. The first time I made them for my family, they disappeared faster than I could cut them, an instant hit that's now officially the most requested dessert for our Easter Sunday table the week after next. With their rich, buttery sweetness, bursts of tart raspberry, and gooey pockets of white chocolate, these blondies strike the perfect balance between indulgent and refreshing. Trust me- once you make them, they'll become a tradition in your home too. I like to a big dollop of scream to serve with a big mug of tea but whatever way you serve them, there is no doubt you will enjoy them! Plus they are super quick and easy to make so a winner in my books!

Ingredients: (Makes 9 -12 Blondies)

240g of plain flour, plus an extra tablespoon,
2 eggs (whisked)
150g chopped good quality white chocolate,
1 teaspoon of vanilla bean paste,
225g unsalted butter melted,
250g light brown sugar,
150 g of fresh raspberries,
Pinch sea salt













Method:

1. Melt the butter in a pot over a medium heat. When it has fully melted, turn up the heat slightly and allow it to bubble away for a few minutes until it becomes brown and smells nutty. Set aside in a bowl and allow to cool to room temperature.

2. Preheat your oven to 180* C /160*C Fan /350F / Gas Mark 4 an grease and line 9inch x 9inch square tin with baking parchment paper.

3. In a large bowl whisk the sugar and cooled brown butter until thick and fluffy – about 2 minutes to reach this state.

4. Slowly add the whisked eggs and vanilla mixing well until fully combined, then fold in the flour and salt and fold through the white chocolate.

5. Toss the raspberries in the extra tablespoon of flour (this will stop the sinking in the batter)then gently fold into the blondie mixture.

6. Pop into the oven and bake for 45- 55 minutes until just set but still fudgy inside. Leave to cool fully before cutting into squares.

I hope you love these blondies as much as my family does. They're simple, crowd pleasing, and perfect for any celebration, especially Easter just around the corner. If you give them a try, let me know how they turned out and whether they earned repeat request status in your house too! Happy baking and enjoy!

John Paul KEnnEdy IS a SELF-TauGHT COOK and an avId Fan OF COLLECTInG COOKERy BOOKS WITH a PaSSIOn FOR GOOd OLd-FaSHIOnEd HOME COOKInG. HIS PaSSIOn FOR PROPER FaMILy COOKInG STEMS FROM HIS GRandMOTHERS, WHO WERE BOTH ExCELLEnT COOKS, OnE OF WHOM WaS a TRaInEd CHEF. **JP** PROMISES TO BRInG uS PLEnTy OF FaMILy-InSPIREd RECIPES and TaSTy TREaTS WHILE SHOWInG uS HOW TO GET THE BaSICS RIGHT.

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Children's talents recognised at arts competition

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

YOUNG artists, some of whom are local, who submitted entries to this year's Texaco Children's Art Competition are currently having their works evaluated as the judging process gets underway.

The Texaco Children's Art Competition, which will celebrate its 72nd anniversary this year, is popularly regarded as the longest-running sponsorship in the history of arts sponsoring in Ireland.

This year, as has been the case throughout its life, it has been a platform on which young artists have had their talents recognised and a springboard on which many have risen to national prominence.

Aside from giving students the space to give expression to their talent and skill, the competition has focused a spotlight on the quality of art teaching in Irish schools and the importance that the educational establishment attaches to the subject of art education.

Past winners whose early interest in art and the arts may well have been encouraged by their participation in the Competition include artists, Robert Ballagh, Bernadette Madden, Dorothy Cross, and the late Graham Knuttel.

Others include late fashion designer Paul Costelloe and artist and former broadcaster Thelma Mansfield.

Other notable past winners include former Minister, Ruairi Quinn (a four-time winner), communications consultant and broadcaster Terry Prone, former ICTU Secretary and Chairman of the Pension Authority David Begg and actress Jean Anne Crowley.

Musician Ethna Tinney, Trinity College Professor of Contemporary Irish History Eunan O'Halpin and the late novelist Clare Boylan have also won the title over the years.

Winners in six age categories, plus one category reserved exclusively for young artists with additional needs, will be announced in mid-April.

Preliminary adjudicator Marie Connole admiring two of the entries received from Dublin this year – 'Ages Apart' (left) by a pupil from The King's Hospital School, Palmerstown, and 'Pepper Study' by a pupil from Lucan Community College.



COMPETITION: Marie Connole admiring two of the entries received from Dublin this year – a work entitled 'Ages Apart' (left) by a pupil from The Kings Hospital School, Palmerstown and another entitled 'Pepper Study' by a pupil from Lucan Community College.

Incredible experience for Holly on Dancing with the Stars

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"BEING part of the Dancing with the Stars final on Sunday was an incredible experience," beams Firhouse Community College alumni and dancer Holly Devitt.

Performing on that floor, surrounded by so much energy and talent, reminded her how far this journey has taken her and "how lucky I am to be part of it."

The preparation behind the scenes was intense but rewarding. Every moment reinforced that Holly is "exactly where she is meant to be."

This experience has taught her that there is no age limit on your dreams. This season was a prime example of that.

Holly started dancing at 12 and had so many people tell her she was "too late" and that she would "never make it".

But she kept going, and she knows other dancers who started later and are achieving amazing things.

Holly encourages readers to "do what makes you happy; it's never too late."

At the same time, "we're all human, and we all get nervous when stepping up to do something big."

She continues by recommending that "if people doubt you, it's often because something is standing in the way of their own courage to try" and to keep going anyway.

"From childhood scars to DWTS, it really felt like a dream come true," she beams.

The best part of the experience was the amount of support she received from everyone, even just for one moment, to which Holly exclaims, "It left me in shock."

Seeing support from her area in Firhouse, a "community like no other", and especially from her former secondary school, Firhouse Community College, showed that "a great school continues to support you long after you leave."

Holly would like to thank her grandparents for giving her a better life and supporting every step of this journey.

She would also like to thank her mam and "all our angels above", and she hopes they are proud of the life she is living now and proud of how she has "turned it around".

Holly also extends her gratitude to her team, especially her coach, whose "determination and love for dance make things like this possible."

She would like to thank the production team and cast of DWTS for the opportunity and their trust in her to be part of "something special".

Last but not least, Holly would like to thank DanceSport Ireland, who have supported her since she began her dancing journey. She is "forever grateful".

She now looks forward to getting back into training, preparing for competitions ahead, while finishing my second year studying for a BCL in Law and Criminology.

"There is a lot to look forward to, and I'm loving every minute of it," Holly beams.



OPPORTUNITY: Firhouse Community College alumni and dancer Holly Devitt



Chloe and Caitlin



Performing on stage during the musical



Rafael, Jeroen, Oliver and Oskan



Aoife, Fiona and Sarah



Having the time of their life



Chloe, Isabelle, Daniel, Aoibheann and Mairéad



Sean, Mary, Joan and Jenny



Diane, Sophie and Jane



The Keogh Family

Dancing Queen

MUSICAL BY STUDENTS FROM KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
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Grace and Katie



The cast of the musical Dancing Queen from Kingswood Community College



Yvonne, Deirdre, Harper and Deirdre



Jessica, Leah and Grace



Aoife, Mark and Tara



Jack and Marisa



Róisín, Mairéad and Grace

FLASH GORDON

THIS MORNING, THE ARENA MONGOTHIC IS SILENT.

SOON THESE STANDS WILL FILL WITH CHEERING **THOUSANDS**, HUNGRY FOR A **SPECTACLE.**

PERHAPS I'LL COME TO **MISS** THIS SILENCE IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

FIRST IN A TRICKLE, THEN IN A **FLOOD**, MY PEOPLE POUR INTO THE **ARENA MONGOTHIC.**

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...**CHAMPIONS**, BOTH NEW AND SEASONED...

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I, **KING BARIN**, WELCOME THEM ALL TO **THE TOURNAMENT OF MONGO!**

DAN SCHKADE 9·7·25

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NEXT: THE FIRST CONTEST

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Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 5-25-25

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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

... AND IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR WALK, OLIVE JUST VANISHED.

I'LL FIND 'ER, QUEENIE. WEIRD STUFF HAPPENS IN SWEETHAVEN.

LIKE RANDOM DINOSAURS APPEARING?

I SED "WEIRD," NOT—

—"SILLY"?

I KNEW I SHOULDA MOVED TO BANGALLA INSTEAD.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

OYL BARRELS

PART 3

OLIVE OYL HAS BEEN ABDUCTED BY SEA HAG'S SISTER TO LURE POPEYE INTO A TRAP. BUT THEN PROMPTLY ESCAPED HER CELL. MEANWHILE, POPEYE HAS A VISITOR.

A DINOSKORE? WOTCHA GOTSK?

popeye.com

Popeye,
I am holding your girlfriend hostage in the Kingdom of the Past. I know you remember how to get here. Save her... if you dare.
Cackling evilly,
Sea Hag's Sister

GREAT. NOW I GOTSTA SPEND ME DAY SAVIN' SEA HAG'S SISTER FROM HER OWN BAD CHOICES.

ELSEWHERE....

SOON ENOUGH, POPEYE WILL BE HERE AND I CAN PUT AN END TO HIM.

MEANWHILE, OLIVE'S JUST ROAMING FREE IN YOUR DUNGEON.

WHAT'S THE WORST SHE COULD DO DOWN THERE WITH ALL OF THE GUARDS LOOKING FOR HER?

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BUT YOUR QUEEN NEEDS YOUR LABOR MORE THAN YOU NEED HER.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING?

3-22

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"If you find yourself stuck in the middle there is only one way to go, forward.

Richard Branson

Health & Fitness

YOU ARE NOT LAZY YOU ARE SIMPLY STUCK

by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie



I don't know how you do it Ursula. I'm just so lazy." It is something I hear all the time and if I am honest, it always stops me in my tracks. Because I truly believe this. You are not lazy.

When you label yourself as lazy or unmotivated, you begin to believe it. And once you believe it, your actions start to follow that story. You avoid things. You procrastinate. You feel stuck. It becomes a cycle that is very hard to break.

But what if laziness is not the problem at all? What if something else is getting in your way?

Before you attach that label to yourself, take a step back and look a little deeper. Here are three very real reasons why you might feel stuck.

Overwhelm

When life feels like too much, your body reacts. Stress and burnout can push your nervous system into a state where even the smallest task feels huge. Paying a bill, sending a message, getting out for a walk can feel like climbing a mountain. It is no surprise that exercise drops to the bottom of the list.

If this sounds familiar, your first step is not a workout. It is to reduce the overwhelm. Ask for help. Share the load. Tackle the urgent things one at a time. As the pressure eases, your energy will begin to return, and movement will start to feel possible again.

Mental chatter

Many of the women I work with tell me their minds never switch off. They are juggling work, family, responsibilities and trying to fit in something for themselves. That constant thinking takes a lot more energy than anyone thinks.

If your mind is always busy, it is time to give it a break.

Simple practices like breathing exercises, meditation or even a quiet ten minutes to yourself can make a huge difference. You might feel like you do not have the time, but even a short pause can help you feel clearer, calmer and way more productive.

Dehydration

This one is often overlooked. Even mild dehydration can leave you feeling tired, sluggish and foggy. It can feel like a lack of motivation, when in reality your body just needs support.

Start small. Fill up a water bottle in the morning and drink it in small amounts regularly throughout the day. You may be surprised at how much more energised and clear-headed you feel.

So, the next time you catch yourself saying "I am just lazy", I challenge you to stop and ask yourself what is really going on.

Start with something small. A glass of water. A few minutes of quiet. A short walk around the block.

You might just find that the thing you thought you could not do feels that little bit easier.

Remember you are never lazy. You just need help and support to find a way forward.

This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime

Ursula Frawley is a personal trainer and owner of Move It Fitness. Her online strength & fitness classes, which run live seven times a week, have been helping women to feel stronger and fitter since 2020. Her online and in-person programmes are focused on motivating and changing a mindset to enjoying the fitness journey, while feeling empowered with a positive mindset. Ursula lives in Dublin 24 with her husband and four children. Get more information by emailing her at info@moveitfitness.ie or www.moveitfitness.ie





Aishling and Ayda



Cllr Francis Timmons and Dolores Burke



Enjoying the music and dancing



Edward and Rita



Gareth and Gino



Ava, Amber and Estelle



Elaine, Elsie and Arlo



Donna and Catherine



Tracey Byrne and Family



Elena and Leah

Céilí without borders

CELEBRATING CULTURE AND MUSIC IN ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Miriam, Annemarie and Emer



There was a special performance from Scoil Rince Erica



Enjoying the céilí in Áras Chrónáin



Essie, Elsie and Erica



Lynn, Iona, Aideen and Fikria

Hope you're all enjoying our



Colouring Competition 2026

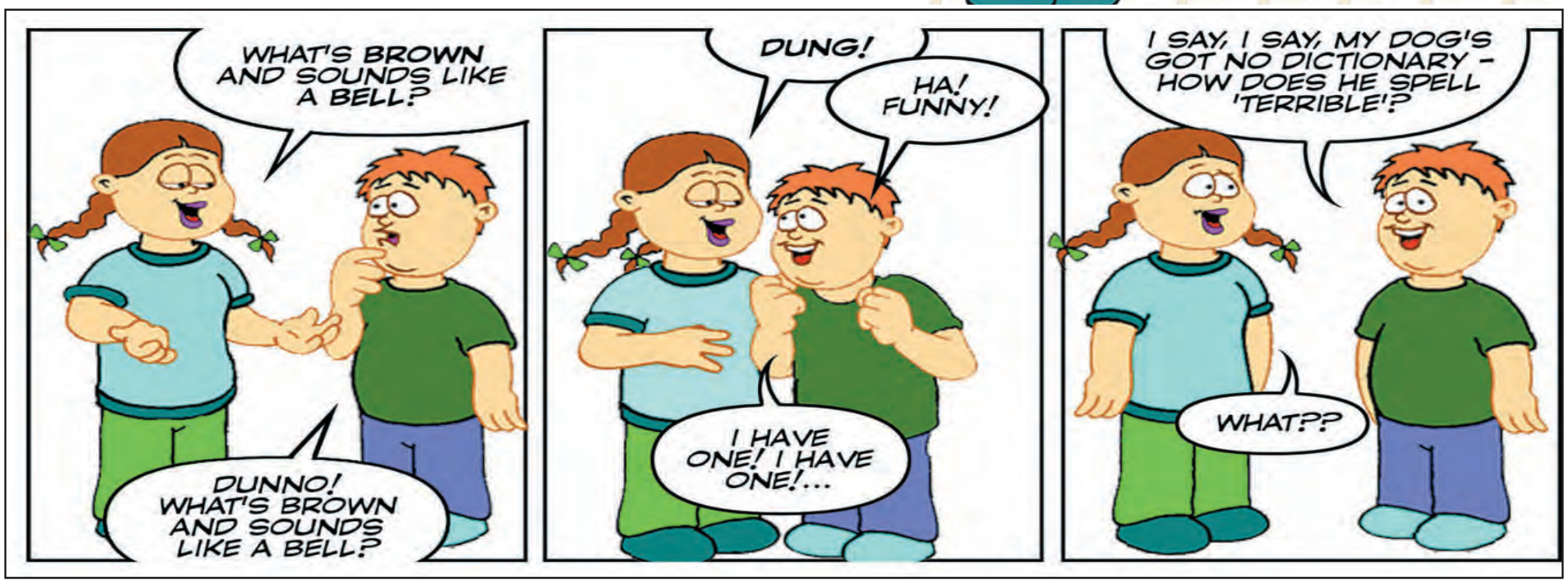
Colour in the Puss-in-boots picture on page 55, take a picture of it and **email it** to reception@echo.ie or **whatsapp it** to **083 0106275** and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE.**



A Word with Echo So...

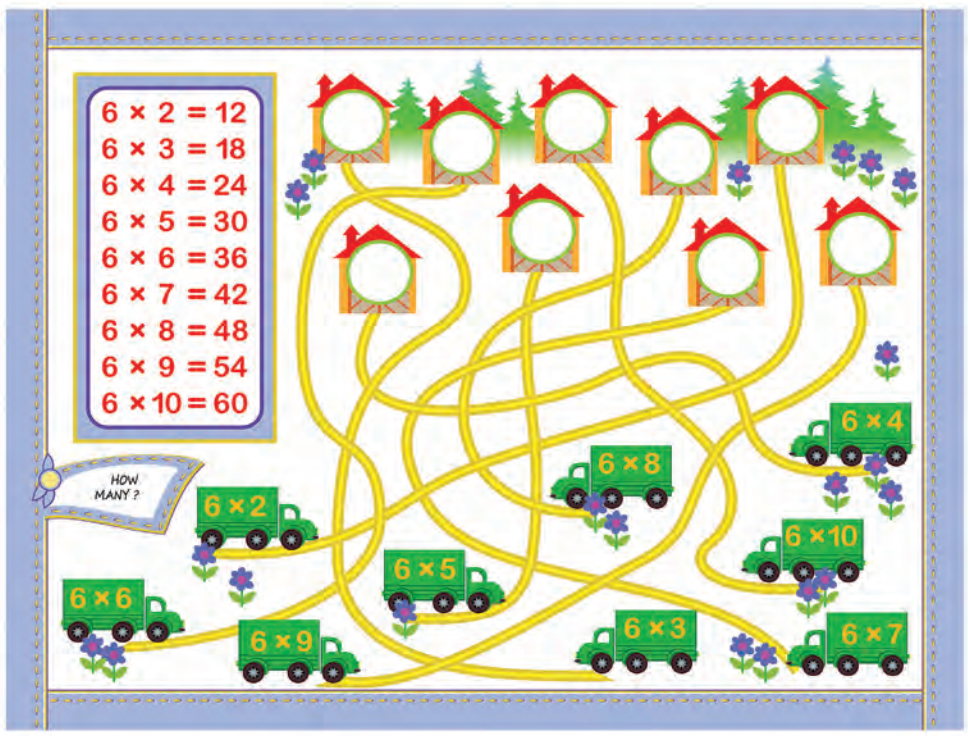
Time Travellers





Find the two identical pictures

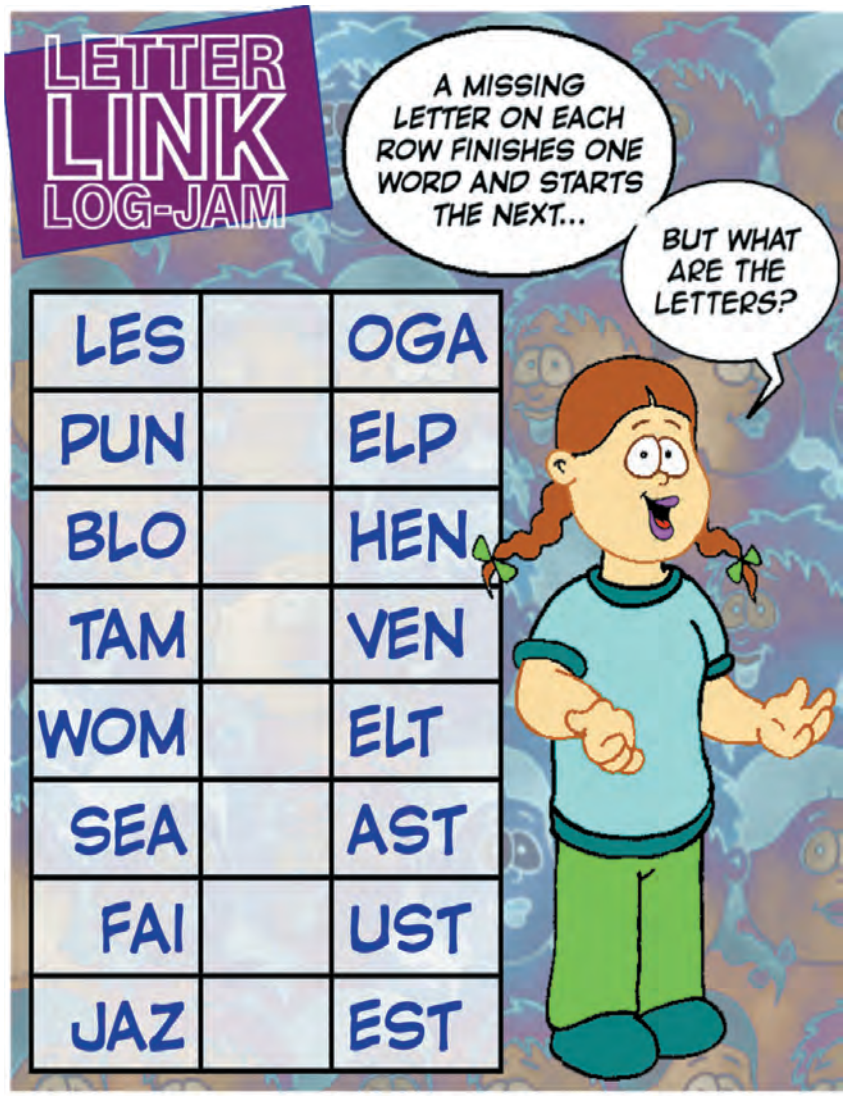




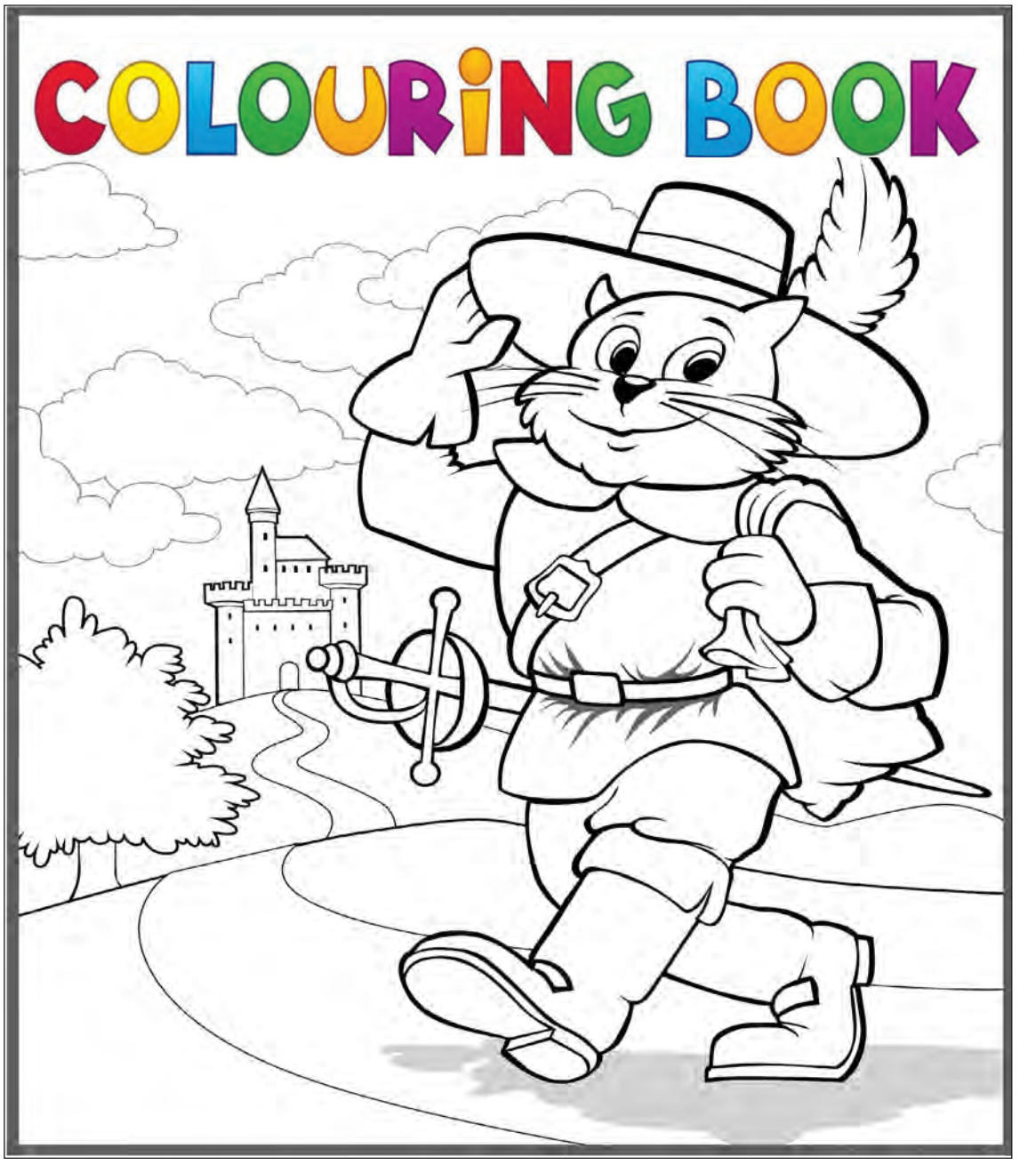
These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES





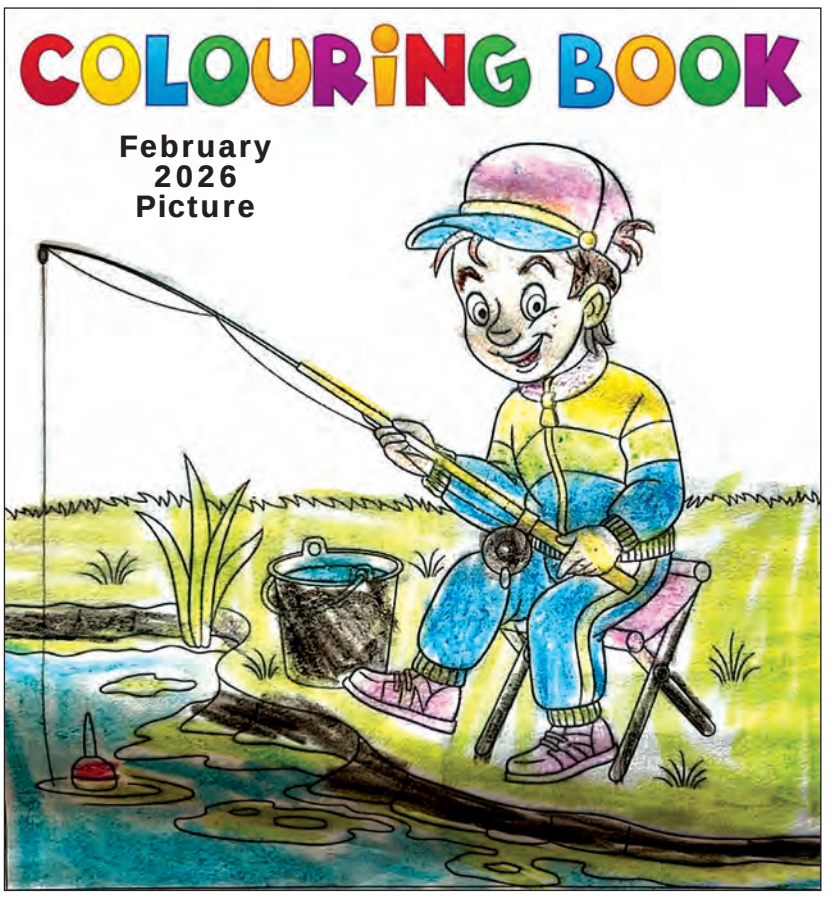
the missing letters: T, Y, W, E, B, M, R, Z.



This week's winner!

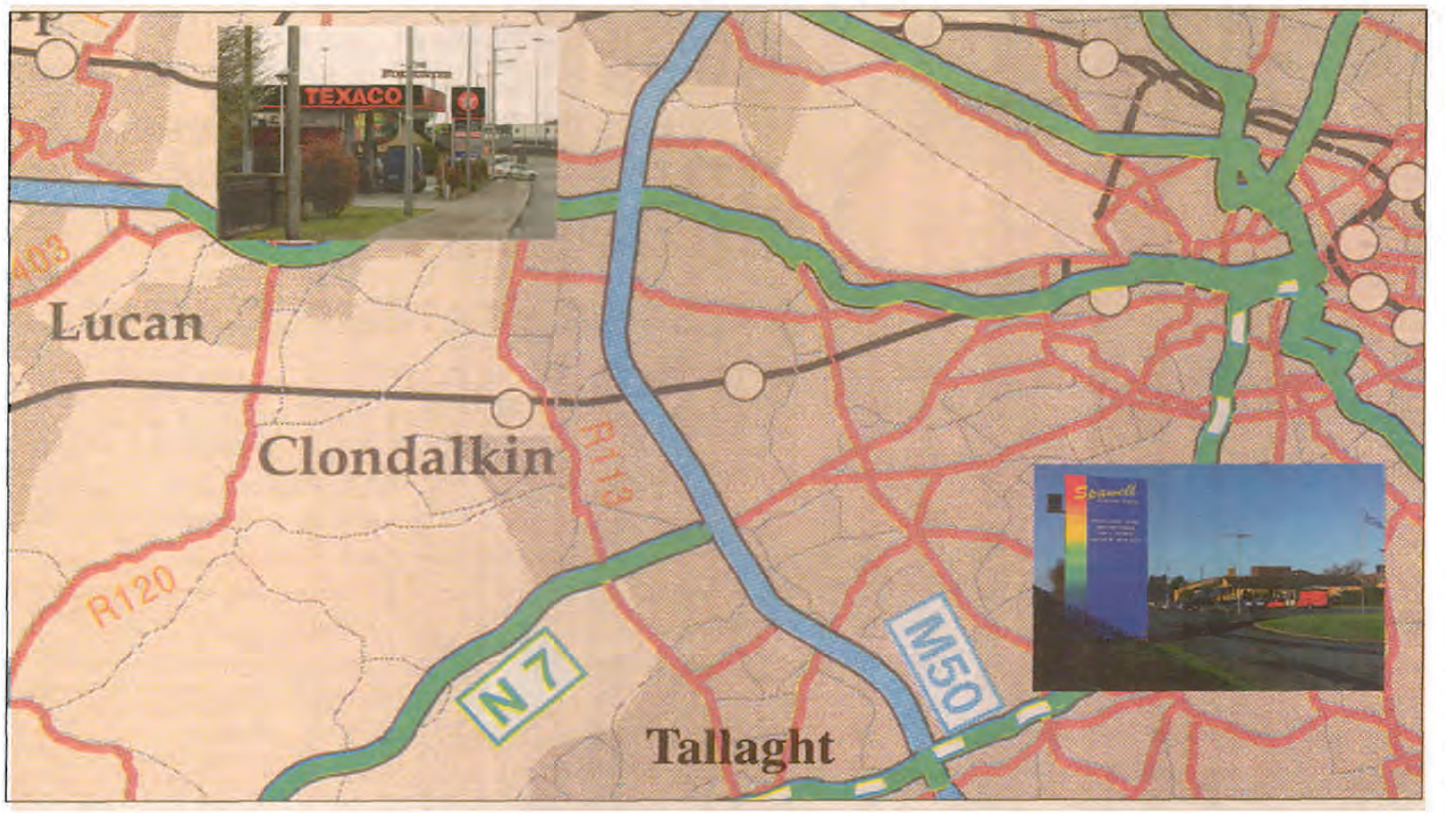
Sophia, aged 9, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. Sophia, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

Each month the picture will change, and all entries stay in for the month so you have lots of chances to win!!



Activities are kindly sponsored by amazon

NEWS



The row broke out at the Spawell night club in Templeogue and continued along the M50 to the Texaco station on the N4 where those targeted sought refuge.

M50 murder plan

Around 30 shots were fired from what was believed to be a 9mm automatic weapon as both cars travelled down the M50 in speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

GARDAI believe the four-mile shoot out on the M50 at the weekend was a murder attempt.

They have described the two north Clondalkin gangs involved in the incident in the early hours of Sunday morning as "very dangerous people".

A Garda source told The Echo that both groups are based in the north Clondalkin area and described them as "very sinister, dangerous and vile people".

He added: "It started with an argument between a couple of people on the periphery of the gangs."

Officers fear retaliatory attacks and one Garda said the intention was definitely to murder one or both of the passengers in one of the cars.

The incident occurred when the two targeted men left the Spawell Nightclub in Templeogue at around 3.45am on Sunday morning with three women from Clondalkin in a brown Lexus car.

It is believed the Lexus was followed as it travelled on to the M50 and as the vehicle passed the Ballymount exit, a silver saloon-type car pulled up beside it and the shooting began.

Around 30 shots were fired from what was believed to be a 9mm automatic weapon as both cars travelled down the M50 in speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

The Garda source said: "It's a miracle any of the occupants of the car were not killed."

He added: "These are extremely dangerous groups but still wouldn't be considered the main gangs in the area."

The two men in the Lexus had anticipated a gun attack and wore bullet proof vests.

The shoot-out finished when the Lexus pulled into the Texaco at Ballydowd on the N4 and the saloon continued travelling.

The male passenger in the Lexus was hit on the elbow and shoulder and ran from the car with its occupants and demanded to be allowed into the shop.

He subsequently received treatment for his injuries at Blanchardstown Hospital but has refused to co-operate with the Garda investigation.

The Lexus has been technically examined but the saloon and weapons used have yet to be recovered.

As a result of the shooting, the M50 was closed on Sunday from the Cookstown exit to the N4 junction as gardai examined the stretch of road involved in the shooting.

Anyone with any information relating to the crime can contact the Gardai in Lucan at 666 7300.

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THE Echo

Brlefs...

Youths' soccer c'ship

LOCAL kids who have for the past three years been trained by the FAI will square up to each other this weekend at the final of the Tallaght Youth Service Soccer Tournament.

The children, who range in age from 12 to 17, are involved in local youth groups and most have been involved with soccer academies facilitated by FAI coaches for the past three years.

The final of the Tournament will take place on Saturday at 3.15pm in Greenhills Road Astro Park, followed at 4pm by a presentation of prizes by Deputy Mayor Karen Warren.

"The objectives of the day are to provide an opportunity for young people to experience the challenge of soccer at a competitive level," a South Dublin County Council spokesman said.

Sinead McDonagh, KEY Project Co-ordinator, said: "We hope to provide a fun event where young people can work together to explore their individual talents and skills through the medium of sport."

Youth Clubs involved in the tournament include ADAPT youth club as part of the School Completion Programme, Gardai Youth Diversion Projects managed by Tallaght Youth Service and a youth service operated by Foroige in partnership with County Dublin VEC.

Traffic chaos

THERE was traffic chaos on the M50 yesterday during the morning rush hour when a truck shed its load on the southbound carriageway.

The incident happened between the Tallaght and Firhouse exits at around 9am causing the southbound lane to be closed off completely to motorists.

Four people were injured in the crash, though none were thought to be seriously hurt. A Garda spokesman said traffic was "pretty slow" in the area and at the time motorists were advised to avoid the route altogether.

Hockey

Heartbreak for Glens

GLENANNE were made to rue missed chances that resulted in defeats in the Men's Irish Junior Cup Final and the Leinster League title trail.

Saturday saw their men's senior side face off against closest rivals Pembroke Wanderers knowing that three points would effectively secure them their third Division One prize.

However, the leaders got off to the worst possible start, finding themselves two goals down after 15 minutes after Pembroke sharpshooter Gordon Elliott together with Simon Kershaw located the Glenanne goal with fine efforts.

Glens reacted instantly as Joe Brennan surprised ex-Irish International goalkeeper Nigel Henderson with a snapshot from a short-corner but he handed the initiative back to Wanderers when allowing Alan Sothern in for Pembroke's third.

Brennan got his second from the penalty spot but it was not enough in the end for the Tallaght side, whose lead has now been whittled down to two points, although they do have a game in hand.

If things were bad on Saturday they got worse on Sunday as the club's biggest game of the year ended in heartbreak when they lost 2-1 to Annadale in the Irish Junior Cup Final.

Their County Down opponents came out all guns blazing at the start of the second half and scored two goals in the first ten minutes through Christopher Lemon and Peter Carruth.

After their spell of domination 'Dale' were reduced to nine men when they had two players sin-binned in separate incidents.

Glens capitalised by clawing one back eight minutes from time when Mark Lambe found Jonathan Kane free in the circle and the Irish U16 finished well, but time was not on their side and Annadale hung on for the win.

Loreto top the table

EVERYTHING fell into place for Loreto at the weekend as they topped the Division Two League for the second time in three years.

The team not only needed to score a victory over Corinthians but were also looking for Old Alex to drop points against Hermes in order to secure the prize.

And that's exactly what happened, with Alex being held to a scoreless draw before the resilient Loreto scored a 3-1 triumph over Corinthians in St Columba's College.

It could all so easily have gone pear-shaped after Loreto fell a goal behind, but it took them only five minutes to draw level, with Aoife O'Brien steering home a short corner.

This was followed up with goals from Sinead Hayes and Niamh Small to make certain of the spoils that put them top of the group beyond the reach of their closest rivals.

It was just rewards for Cara Taaffe's outfit, who have shown exceptional consistency this term.

Elsewhere there was more good news for Loreto as their firsts made certain of a top-three finish and subsequently All-Ireland Club Championship qualification with a narrow 2-1 victory over Corinthians.

Two goals from Linda O'Neill saw them recover from a one-goal deficit to bag the necessary points.

Weston dealt a blow

AUTOMATIC promotion may have eluded Weston's Division Five men's team after they suffered a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Corinthians on Saturday.

It was a disappointing loss for the Lucan men, who had every chance to win this match, but the clinical touch of the marksmen let them down on the day.

Both Karl Taylor and Declan O'Shaughnessy went close to hitting the target early on, with the latter rounding the Corinthians keeper on three occasions only to find the side-netting every time.

At the other end Corinthians found the target enough times to spoil the Weston party and leave the way open for Mullingar to clinch the title.

Weston did make amends somewhat the following day after they dished out a 2-1 defeat to Kilkenny.

Elsewhere Weston's ladies fell foul of Division Five champions Newbridge at the weekend.

The narrow 1-0 defeat forced Weston to settle for third place, marking the second year in a row that the side has been pipped for promotion.

The club's Division Eight ladies also barely missed out on a promotion spot despite beating Muckross 3-1 in their final match of the season.

Rugby

Greene makes Irish squad

TALLAGHT RFC were celebrating this week with news that scrum-half Kris Greene has made the final cut for the Irish Under-18 squad due to face Scotland in Greystones on Sunday.

The Firhouse youngster was understandably delighted with his selection, of which he was notified on Friday – the day of his 18th birthday.

Speaking to The Echo, Greene could not hide his elation at the opportunity to represent his country.

"I couldn't believe it. I really couldn't have wished for a better birthday present and everybody has been calling me with their congratulations" said Greene.

"The training has been tough over the past six weeks, but I quickly got used to the pace and I was surprised by the amount of preparation they [the managers] put in.

"I still don't know whether I'll be starting yet. The squad is meeting up on Friday, staying overnight for training on Saturday, but they won't be naming the team until Sunday before the match," continued Greene.

"Both the players and the management have been brilliant since I joined the set up, so I can't wait for the game and to just get out on the pitch.

"I'd love to start but just to get on the pitch and win my first cap would be unbelievable," he added.

With the squad set to leave for Italy to take part in the European Championships, Greene could be in action at some point over the next two weeks.

The squad flies out on Wednesday after the Scotland game and face the hosts in their first game. After that they will play either England or Portugal.

Following the tournament, Kris will take a short break before linking back up with the Leinster Under-19 squad in a few months' time.



Clondalkin's Chris Jebb receives a delicate pass during Saturday's All-Ireland final against Ballinasloe in Naas.

Cruel end for Clondalkin

CLONDALKIN Under-18s' hopes of All-Ireland League glory were dashed after they were beaten by a single point 18-17 by Ballinasloe in the final at Naas Rugby Club on Saturday.

CLONDALKIN 17
BALLINASLOE 18
Kevin Farrell reports

In a nail-biting encounter Clondalkin showed their Jekyll and Hyde personality by once again playing poorly in the first half but totally dominating the second.

As has been the case for most of the season they found themselves with a mountain to climb going in at half time and unfortunately the 18-point deficit proved a bridge too far.

Clondalkin did make the brighter start but looked a little intimidated by the physically stronger Galway outfit.

It was the Connacht champions who grabbed the first score that signalled the start of a five-minute long nightmare for Clondalkin.

It was Irish out-half Robert Beirne who inflicted most of the damage by kicking two penalties, running over a try and adding a conversion.

Beirne burst through the insipid Clondalkin defence, where Paul Nolan was left three on one, and ran over for a try before converting from a tight angle on the right.

Clondalkin managed to halt the Ballinasloe insurgence for a further 10 minutes, but eventually the Galwegians broke through and added a second touchdown courtesy of Dara Mooney.

Beirne added a penalty late in the half with a fine kick from beyond the ten metre line to leave the score at 18-0 at the break.

Having, been told to keep their heads at half time Clondalkin began making a trademark comeback and it was captain Chris Jebb who registered their first score with an almost exact replica of Beirne's late kick in the first half.

That seemed to spark Clondalkin to life as they began to mount some heavy pressure on Ballinasloe's back line.

That pressure finally told when scrum-half Alan O'Brien broke over the line after which Jebb added the points.

When Clondalkin won a series of line outs they worked their way down the line and eventually Graham Gallagher and Gerard Nugent both dived on the ball for the try.

Jebb executed the conversion with a smashing kick out by the touchline as his side pressed for the winning score.

Unfortunately, the Galway side slowed the game down and held Clondalkin up at the half way as the ref blew for full time.



Chris Kelly



Eoghan Maguire

Mary's poised for final

ST MARY'S face Clontarf in the final of the Leinster Senior Cup in Donnybrook on Saturday in what promises to be an exciting showdown.

Having been somewha inconsistent in the All-Ireland League Division One this season Mary's have proven themselves to be cup specialists this term.

They face Monkstown in the quarterfinals of the Metropolitan Cup while their under-20's meet Belvedere in the final of the McCorry this week.

Mary's are the current holders of the famous old trophy following last year's terrific 26-7 victory over De La Salle Palmerston and have enjoyed a rich history in the competition since their first Senior Cup success in 1958.

They haven't had it easy on the way to the final and they were pushed hard in matches against Naas, Skerries, local rivals Terenure and in the semifinal against UCD.

Terenure on brink

TERENURE romped to a 34-5 win over De La Salle Palmerston (DLSP) at Lakelands on Saturday, leaving them one win away from securing promotion back to Division One.

Second placed Dolphin's defeat at the hands of neighbours Midleton helped leave Terenure nine points clear at the top and they will be popping the champagne if they beat Highfield away on Saturday, April 15.

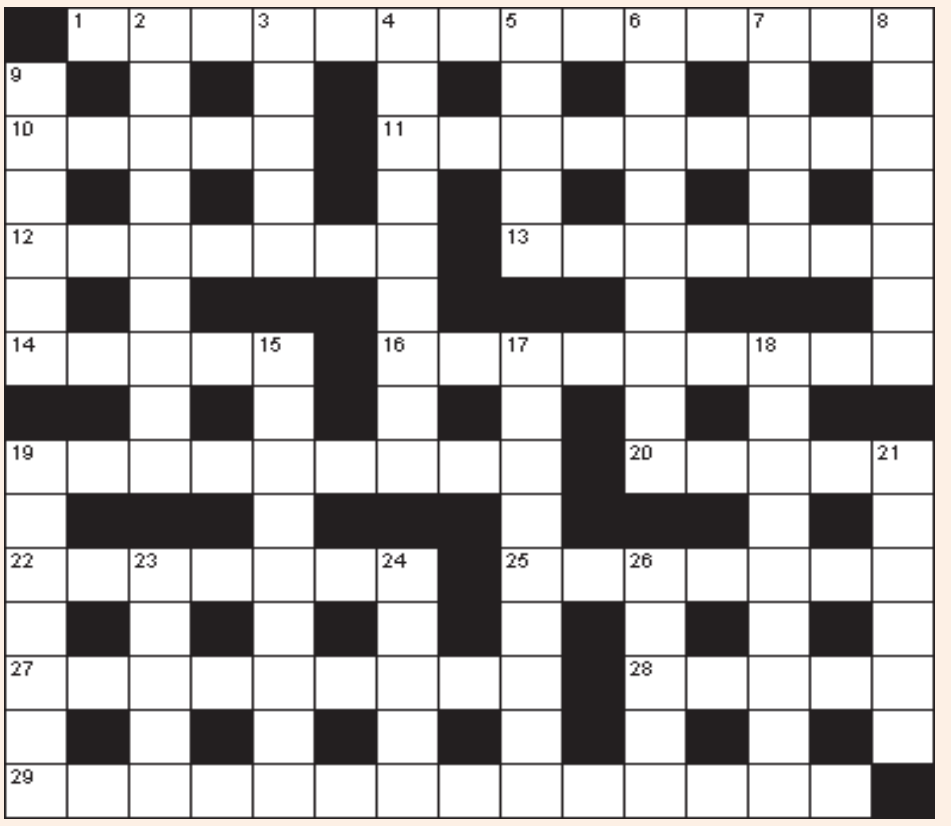
Terenure's Rugby League international Steve Nolan put in a man-of-the-match performance, scoring two superb tries as his side eased to victory.

It did not, however, go all Terenure's way and they could not have imagined a worse start, finding themselves five points down within minutes of the kick-off.

Terenure brought themselves back into the game and ended up five points ahead going in at the break.

Terenure stretched their lead in the second half as DLSP collapsed and the hosts added two late tries to secure the bonus point.

echocrossquiz Q2603



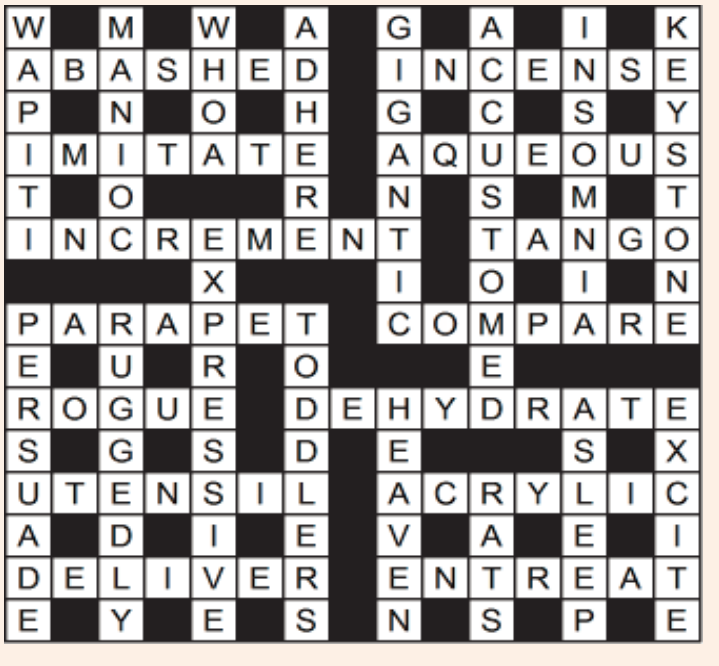
ACROSS

1. Unreadable (14)
10. Wood-turning tool (5)
11. A bad-tempered woman (9)
12. Breed of dog (7)
13. Deep purplish red (7)
14. A doglike nocturnal mammal (5)
16. Right away (9)
19. The Pilgrim ship (9)
20. Challenges (5)
22. Dismissal (7)
25. Specified (7)
27. Bellicose (9)
28. Small egg (5)
29. Associated with a church (14)

DOWN

2. Infamy (9)
3. Lacquer ingredient (5)
4. Conference (9)
5. Wives and concubines (5)
6. A defensive military action (9)
7. Muscle (5)
8. The wide part of a river (7)
9. Hold tight (6)
15. Provide physical relief (9)
17. Aliens (9)
18. Large hairy tropical spider (9)
19. An amazing occurrence (7)
21. Moody (6)
23. Imitate (5)
24. Sixty-three in Roman numerals (5)
26. New Zealand native (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1903



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

	3		7					
	5	7		4				
		6						9
							8	
	8			5		1	4	3
	7	1	2					
				2			6	
			8	6			2	
8					3			4

SUDOKU 2

	3		8		1			5
		2		6				
					2	4		
3	1							
	5			2				8
			9	8			7	
			5				1	
2	4							3
7								6

ANSWERS

6	5	8	4	3	2	1	9	7
3	9	7	8	1	6	5	4	2
4	1	2	7	9	5	3	6	8
1	7	5	3	8	9	4	2	6
8	4	3	9	2	1	7	5	3
2	6	9	5	7	4	8	3	1
7	2	4	6	5	8	9	1	4
5	3	6	1	4	7	2	8	9
9	8	1	2	6	3	5	7	5

SUDOKU 1

4	1	5	3	7	9	2	6	8
7	2	3	1	6	8	4	9	5
8	6	9	5	2	4	1	3	7
5	9	6	4	8	2	7	1	3
3	4	1	7	5	9	6	8	2
2	8	7	9	1	3	5	4	6
1	7	4	8	3	5	9	2	6
9	5	8	2	4	1	3	6	7
6	3	2	5	9	7	8	3	4

SUDOKU 2

Poet's Corner

FREEDOM

by **Gerard O'Keeffe**



I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

None of them seen 60
Those men of long ago
Who fought to free this country
A dept that we all owe
How would they feel now
If they seen what's its become
Would they still give their lives
And die by the gun
The ideals that they fought for
Have vanished into air
The freedom They cherished
Is it really there
We follow those in Brussels
Do as they say
The very things they died for
Are still not here today

family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Anderson, Daniel (Danny)
10th Anniversary occurred 25th March. Late of Clondalkin.

Our time together was special,
So were the memories we made,
And although you live in heaven now,
Those memories never fade.
I bow my head in silence,
And remember my husband with love,
And I know that you are up there,
Watching from above.
Every day's a struggle,
And nothing feels the same,
And my heart breaks a little more,
Every time I hear your name.
You'll always be remembered,
And time may heal my heart,
But a piece of me is missing,
Since the day we had to part.
If heaven is for angels,
Then I know that's where you'll be,
And I know you will be waiting,
When heaven calls for me.
Always loved never forgotten, your wife Evo and son Danny. xxx Also remembering our loved ones who have passed especially his mother Elizabeth R.I.P. xx

Dad
You were always the perfect dad,
In each and every way,
So loving, kind and thoughtful,
You're missed so much each day.
The pain of losing you never passes,
And I miss our time together,
The fond memories I have of you,
I will treasure forever.
I'll never forget the love you showed,
And the way you cared for me,
You truly gave me everything,
The best a dad could ever be.
So this sincere message comes,
Filled with all the love in my heart,
To say you're never ever forgotten,
Even though we are apart.
Always remembered and loved, your son Brian and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. xxx

Grandad
A shadow walks beside us,
Forever by our sides,
Always there to guide us,
Since the day you died.
On your anniversary,
We asked the lord above,
To wrap his arms around you,
And give you all our love.
Always loved never forgotten, Amy, Ciara and Brian. xxx

Great-Grandad
If only we had a chance to meet you before you died,
But we all have a piece of you in our hearts,
And for that a part of you lives on in us.
Your loving great-granddaughters Nova, Amelia and Bowie. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Scannell, John
14th Anniversary occurs 27th March. Late of Killinarden Estate. Also remembering my mam Mary.

Every year on this day,
I think of you and smile,
I sit here all by myself,
And remember just for awhile.
Of all the times we sat and laughed,
And of all the times we cried,
And of all the moments we shared together,
And of all the things we tried.
Whenever I miss your laughter,
Whenever I feel sad,
I look up to the heavens and say,
Thank You for the greatest Dad.
And though you are not here with me,
I hope you can hear me say,
That I'm thinking of you,
With love my dad,
On this, the saddest day.
Loved, remembered and missed by your son John.

ANNIVERSARY



Glynn, Michael (Mick the Moan)
6th Anniversary away from home occurs 26th March.

We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
We thought of you yesterday,
And will tomorrow too.
We think of you in silence,
And make no outward show,
For what it meant to lose you,
Only those who love you know.
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
It's the heartache of losing you,
That will never go away.
Sadly missed & fondly remembered by his loving wife Patricia, daughter Emily, sons Mark, Derek, Michael, David & Paul, Son-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law & Grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY



Gaffney, Les
13th Anniversary occurs 27th March.

Don't grieve for me,
For now, I'm free,
I'm following the path,
God laid out for me.
I took his hand,
When I heard him call,
My parting has left a void,
But fill it with memories shared,
The joy, the laughter, the love, and kisses.
Sadly missed and always in our hearts forever, your loving Sons & Daughter, Daughters-in-Law, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY



Donovan, Elizabeth (Betty)
1st Anniversary occurred 23rd March.

Mam
A special smile,
A special face,
And in our hearts a special place.
No words we speak can ever say,
How much we miss you every day.
To hear your voice and see you smile,
To sit and talk to you a while.
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our dearest wish today.
Love and miss you every day, your daughter Diana, son-in-law John and grandsons Sean, Liam and Aaron.

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **F.C.**

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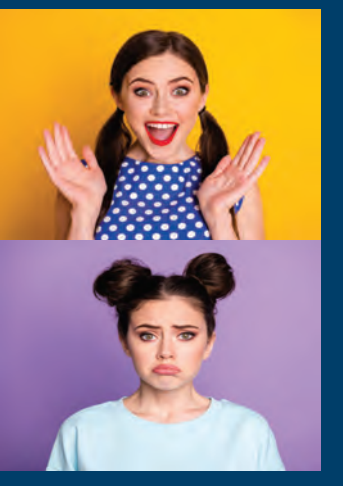
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planning notices

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South Dublin County Council

WorkIQ and management, intend to apply for permission for development at this site: WorkIQ, Innovation Quarter, Belgard Square North. Tallaght D24 E1TT. The development will consist of adding exterior signage to the building enhancing the visibility of the location to the general public and any perspective customers. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council

I, Denis Mesko, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 12 Corbally Park, Corbally, Dublin 24, D24DHD0
The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage incorporating a dormer window to the front, a dormer window to the rear, and a new gable window to the side. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm., and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

Dublin City Council

I, Paula McFarland, am applying for PERMISSION at 98 Jamestown Avenue, Inchicore, Dublin 8, D08 W2AV for Construction of a dormer roof to the rear of existing roof profile with a 400mm increase in the roof ridge height. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council

I, Richie Beary, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 15 Saint Finian's Crescent, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78XP66
The development will consist of: Mono-pitch, single-storey extension to the front and side; conversion of existing garage to habitable space; installation of a rooflight to the side roof slope of the existing side extension; and provision of a new side gate to the rear garden. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm., and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

Dublin City Council

We Tate Europe wish to apply to the above authority for Retention of standalone 2 storey modular building containing changing rooms and offices along with all associated site works at Tate Europe, Unit 2, Kylemore Park West, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, D10 KH30.
The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, during its public opening hours (9.00am – 4.30pm). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the planning application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council

I, William Yu, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 8 Woodstown Cl, Ballycullen, Dublin 16, D16 RD79
The development will consist of: Demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and construction of two single-storey flat-roof extensions to the side and rear. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MARCH 13, 2026

SD25A/0279 11 Mar 2026 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Talbotsinch Ltd
Location: Old Belgard Road, Dublin 24
Description: The Construction of Single-Storey Coffee kiosk complete with signage, site entrance, driveway and car parking area and ancillary site works for 10 years

SD25A/0297W 10 Mar 2026 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Winmar Developments Unlimited Company
Location: 0.564ha site at Site D, Liffey Valley Office Campus, Dublin 22
Description: The construction of a partially two storey over basement motor sales and service building, max. height of c. 11.6 metres with a total gross above ground level floor area of c. 2,198sq m. The development will include on-grade car and bicycle parking spaces, with vehicle display spaces on-grade and at basement level. The proposal also includes the reuse of the existing vehicular access to the north of the site, ramped access to basement level, all associated site enabling and excavation works, boundary treatments, hard and soft landscaping, together with building mounted signage, site signage and flagpoles.

SD25A/0301W 12 Mar 2026 Retention Additional Information
Applicant: Echelon Clondalkin DC Services Limited
Location: 3-4, Crag Avenue, Clondalkin Industrial Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Description: The development comprises the retention of the following amendments to the development permitted under Reg. Ref.: SD20A/0309, as amended by Reg. Ref.: SD22A/0093 and Reg. Ref.: SD23A/0158, which arose during the detailed design / construction stage of the project: Amendments at plant and roof level including the reconfiguration of plant and associated extracts, provision of a roof level package plantroom, provision of 2 no. backup landlord generators, reconfigured gantry associated with the 2 no. back-up landlord generators, and reconfiguration of solar PV panels; The provision of 2 no. pumproom buildings to accommodate process water and fire water with a gross floor area (GFA) of c. 44 sq.m and c. 105 sq.m; The provision of underground water process tanks located to the south of ICT Facility 1; The provision of a wastewater treatment skid located to the west of ICT Facility 1; Reconfiguration of car parking spaces resulting in an overall reduction of 1 no. car parking spaces from 44 no. car parking spaces to 43 no. car parking spaces; Relocation of permitted cycle parking from the north of ICT Facility 1 to the south of ICT Facility 1; Amendments to fenestration and arrangement of facade treatment to ICT Facility 1 and minor reconfiguration of the internal layout; and All associated and ancillary works. An EPA-Industrial Emissions Directive (IE) licence is required to facilitate the operation of the development.

SD25B/0453W 07 Mar 2026 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Michael and Sarah Greaney
Location: 174, Balrothery Estate, Balrothery, Dublin 24, D24 HHY8
Description: For the demolition of part of existing boundary wall to the south and demolition of existing shed. Construction of new single storey granny flat to the side of existing house containing bedroom, WC and kitchen/living area, construction of new single storey home office and home gym to the side of the back garden, new side pedestrian access and all associated works.

SD25B/0695W 08 Mar 2026 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Denis Sloyan
Location: Ringwood Cottage, Hazelhatch, Celbridge, Dublin, W23 AN2A
Description: The development will consist of the reconfiguration and extension of an existing semi-detached bungalow. The proposed works will modernise the residence from a simple two bedroom set up to a four bedroom home with open plan living. Entry gates and driveway configuration will remain as is. The aesthetics of the original house will be retained to the street.

SD25A/0136W 10 Mar 2026 Permission Clarification of Additional Information
Applicant: Brendan Murray
Location: 21, Pineview Rise, Aylesbury, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24FC2X
Description: Demolition of existing detached shed in side garden. Construction in side garden of detached 2 storey 2 bedroom dwelling with habitable attic room, with dormer roof window on rear slope of roof with new vehicular entrance and partial dishing of kerb & all associated site works

SD26A/0063W 09 Mar 2026 Permission New Application
Applicant: Benduff Ireland Ltd
Location: Hayden House, (D24 K793) and cottages (D24 T326 and D24 H981), forming part of the development site at Muldowney's Pub, Main Street, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin., D24 K793
Description: Amendments to Permitted P.R.R. SD22A/0096 for: a) Demolition of existing stone cottages on which works have commenced; b) reconstruction of cottages in modern materials to match existing structures in form to allow for 2 no. 2-bedroom single storey residential units ; c) reuse of the existing roof slates to the front and new roof slates to the rear; d) construction of yard boundary walls within the site using reclaimed stone from the cottages; e) all ancillary landscaping and site development works necessary to facilitate the development.

SD26A/0065W 11 Mar 2026 Permission New Application
Applicant: Spear ACO Cork Designated Activity Company
Location: Unit 133, The Square, Belgard Square East, Dublin 24, D24 X030
Description: The proposed development will consist of amalgamation (including removal of internal mezzanine areas) and change of use of Units U133ABC (former An Post) and U133D (former Bodytalk) from Post Office and Retail Use respectively (both Class 1 ?shops?) to accommodate a restaurant/ takeaway unit (243sqm) for consumption of hot food on and off the premises, modifications to existing shopfront signage, new tenant sign on eastern elevation and all associated site and development works

SD26A/0066W 11 Mar 2026 Permission New Application
Applicant: Pine Valley Property Holdings Limited
Location: 47/48, Broomhill Close, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Construction of an extension to the existing industrial building on the side (west) Elevation and the rear (north) Elevation for additional secure storage.

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published

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Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, March 26, 2026

TUD Dublin secure Bob Eustace Cup



Dan McKenna (left) assistant manager, manager Jamie Moore and coach Cian O Malley (right)

TUD's football team secured victory in the Bob Eustace Cup recently with a victory against SETU Carlow in the tournament final held in Athlone stadium, *reports Michael Howley.*

The last time that the side won the competition was in 2022 and had a point to prove as they were second best in last year's final where they were defeated by TUS Midwest.

A stunning free kick early on in the game from returning captain Matthew O'Brien put the side in good stead while another from top scorer Ryan Markey later on in the half doubled their lead and was just reward for what had been a fairly dominant first half for the college.

Carlow would put up a fight in the second however and brought themselves back into the game almost immediately when Enda Douglas' early strike gave them hope of a comeback.

There were several notable players from local teams in the mix for the squad also with Shamrock Rovers U20 captain Zak Reddy starting in midfield in the final.

Former Rovers academy member Cian Curtis is another involved, now playing for Treaty FC in the League of Ireland first division the attacking midfielder currently has three goals in six games.

Adam Byrne is another Rovers academy product who was present in the team on the day.

Manager Jamie Moore touched on the win for the team.

"One of our main objectives this year was to try and win a trophy again and we were very happy to do so. We missed a few chances in the first half and had it been three or four nil at half time I don't think Carlow could have complained. In the second half they scored early and the wind was majorly in their favour. We had to defend for large parts of the second half and defended very well. We limited their threats. Overall we were deserved winners I feel."

Moore joined the college back before it was TUD and was previously involved with coaching in IT Blanchardstown.

Now 10 years within the organisation he plans to stay around for the foreseeable future and is already planning ahead for 2027's final.

"It's not too early, we always try to plan in advance as much as possible. We only have two players who were involved in the squad for the recent final that are graduating so it's a young group. To have won so early, up to 40% were in their first year of college. We'll be hopeful to get more good first years in September again and give it another good crack."

Daire all set for second season in Euro Clio Cup

Tallaght lad is looking forward to the challenge in Europe

TALLAGHT native Daire Flock will again be competing in the European Clio Cup for 2026, *reports Michael Howley.*

After a successful season in Europe for 2025, the decision was made to continue in the championship as preparation for the European GT4 tournament in 2027.

Last week Flock was at The Circuit Paul Armagnac in Nogaro where the opening round will take place.

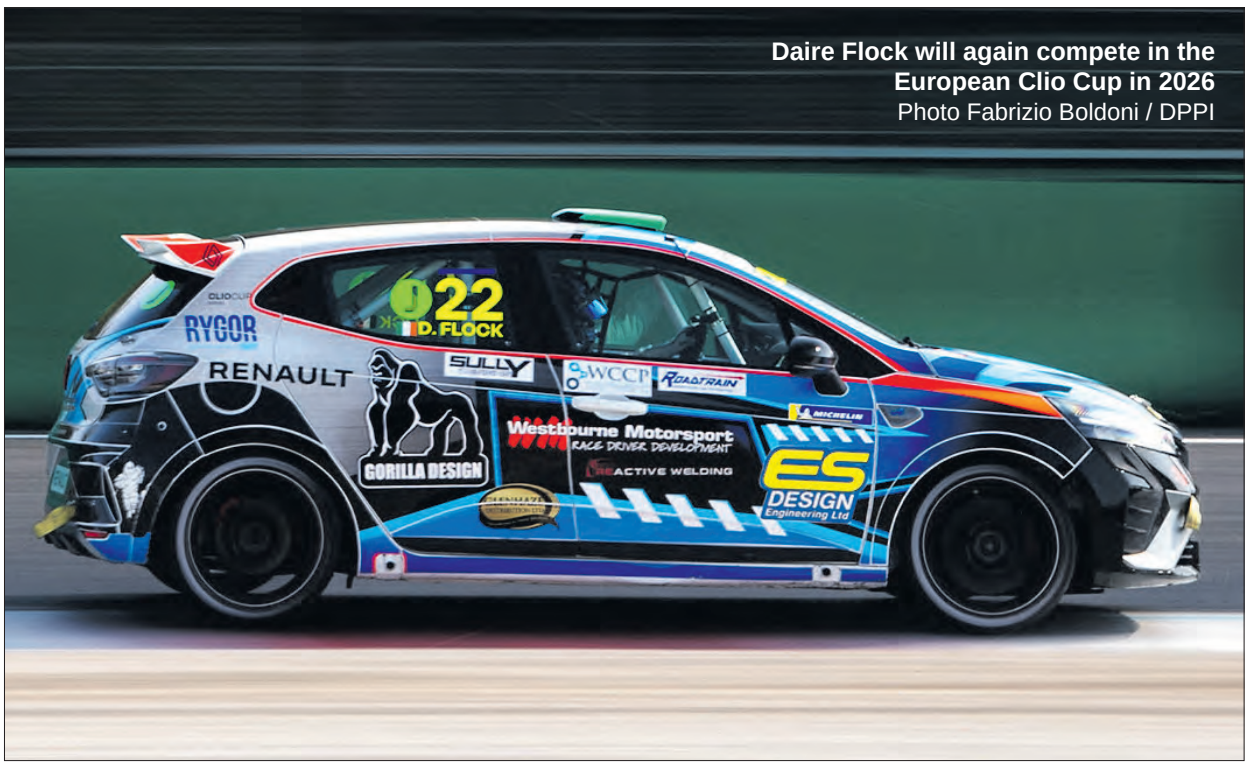
Flock found the sessions as an ideal way of getting back into the swing of things and try out different settings while fine tuning the overall set up of the car.

The previous week Daire had a media day at the famous Silverstone circuit where he did laps with some of his sponsors.

This session consisted of seven rounds in total, visiting the famous Paul Ricard and Spa to name but two of the other tracks.

The 2026 season opener for the European Clio Cup is Easter weekend, 5th of April with Flock competing for his second season.

Flock is looking forward to the challenge.



Daire Flock will again compete in the European Clio Cup in 2026
Photo Fabrizio Boldoni / DPPI

"Last year was a great experience and I was happy with the session, looking forward to competing and aiming for a top 10 finish overall and to win the junior Championship. I will be competing with Westbourne motorsport who I have been with for 5 years. Richard Colburn, team manager for Westbourne Motorsport said, "I'm delighted to have Daire racing with us again, he is an extremely talented driver to be heading our challenge for the European Clio Cup."

"I'd like to thank my long term sponsors, Gorilla Design, Glenhaze distribution, ES Design & Engineering and Reactive Welding for their continuing support in 2026".

Templeogue tops in quarter-finals

TEMPLEOGUE women's basketball team emerged from their play-off quarter-final victorious last week, *reports Michael Howley.*

The side had to play Tolka Rovers and ended up achieving a comfortable victory with an 83-68 scoreline seeing them home.

Templeogue built up an early lead in the first quarter going 19-8 which provided them the platform to take control of the rest of the game.

Sofia Paska again impressed on the day managing an impressive haul of 33 points and 13 rebounds.

Lauren Darcy was another scoring outlet for the team managing 11 points along with four rebounds and three assists, Keeva Byrne's 10 points played a crucial role for the side also.

Hannah Murphy's contribution in the game cannot be overlooked with the player providing an eye watering 16 rebounds to progress her side to the semi final.

Tolka put up a good fight on the day with their star performance coming from Dane Bertolina who managed an impressive tally of 17 points and 10 rebounds.

The win sees Templeogue progress to the playoff semi finals where they will take on Cleveland Rockets this Saturday in Lisburn with a 6:30pm start.

Rockets themselves just about reached the semi final stage after scraping through a razor close 77-74 game against Galway Mystics.

Griffith College Eanna also reached the semi final of the SuperLeague playoffs after they recorded a healthy 87-72 win over Tralee Warriors last Saturday.

The game was the second in consecutive weeks against the same opposition with Eanna coming out on top on both occasions.

Jaylyn Richardson played a key role in the offense for Eanna managing an impressive 24 point, nine rebound display.

Another key performer on the day was Irish international James Gormley who demonstrated an all round performance with 14 points and 13 rebounds to his name.

They will now take on Cork side Ballincollig in the next round of fixtures.

Dublin Lions however were unable to progress through to the Men's Division 1 semi final after an extremely narrow defeat to Titans.

The game ended 82-78 with Lion's hopes to achieve Superleague status pushed aside for another year.



Templeogue overcame Tolka Rovers in the quarter-final

The team fought valiantly until the very end with stand out performances coming from Russ Marr with 32 points and Nacho Folugueiras who managed four rebounds and four assists respectively.

The side can be proud of their overall performance throughout the season however after finishing top of the table in the regular league with 18 wins and just four defeats to their name.

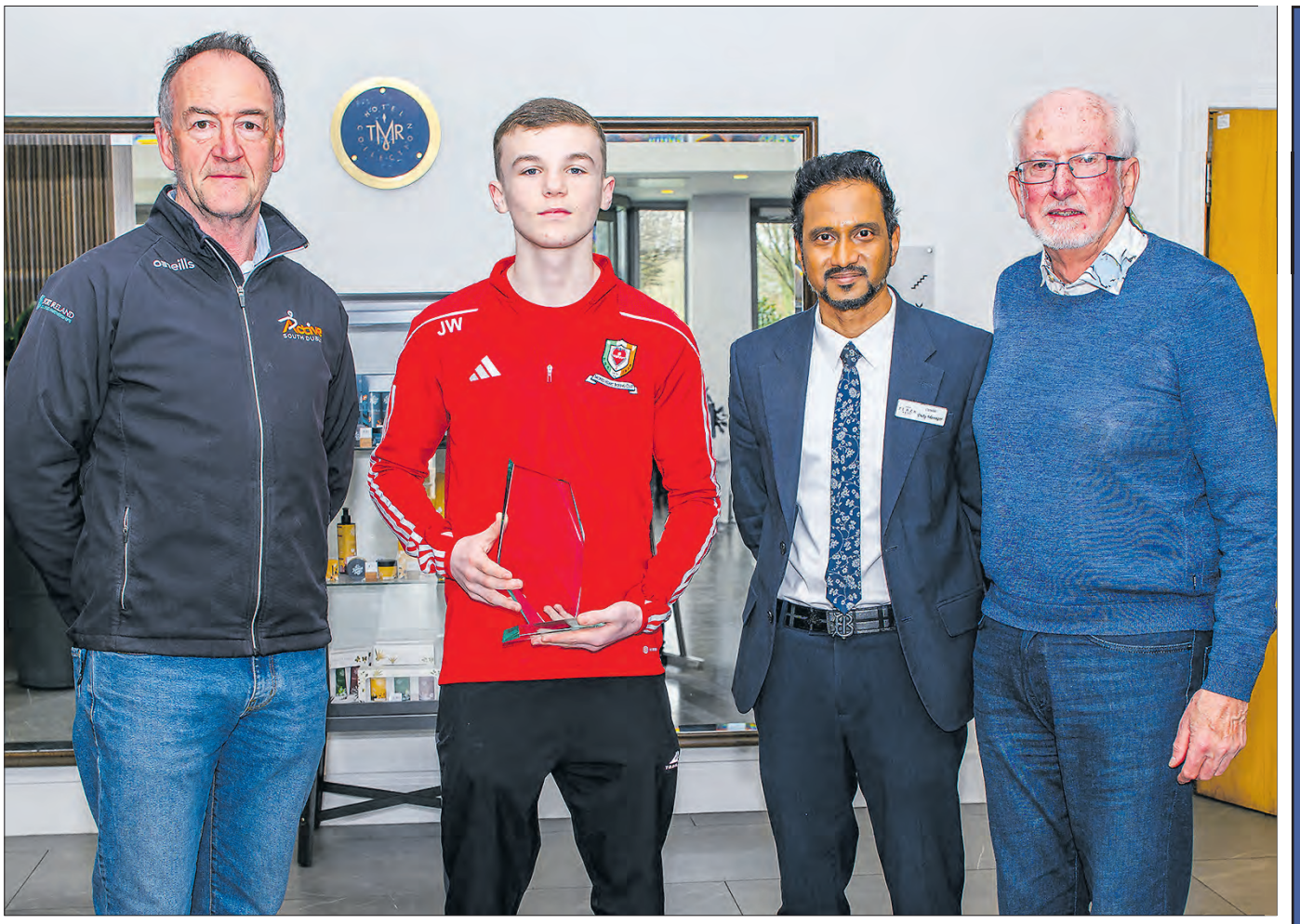
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Active SOUTH DUBLIN

AMATEUR SPORTS AWARDS 2026

In association with: Echo.ie Trusted Local News



Jayden Wall from Sacred Heart Boxing Club in Killinarden receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month Award from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, Oswin Monteiro, Duty Manager at The Plaza Hotel and David Kennedy, Editor, *The Echo*

February Sports Star of the Month is

Jayden Wall

JAYDEN Wall has been named Active South Dublin's Sport Star of the Month for February.

Wall won the Dublin Championships after achieving a first round stoppage and a 5-0 unanimous decision in his two bouts.

This then qualified him for the All Ireland's which took place just last week. Again Wall achieved 5-0 victories in the quarter and semi final stages before managing another 5-0 win against European Champion Kieran McDonagh of Olympic BC Galway.

After achieving so much already in 2026 the year is only getting started for Wall who has a wide range of upcoming competitions ahead of him.

He has qualifiers for the Four Nations tournament in April, should he win those qualifiers he will be competing at the tournament representing Ireland later on in the year.

In August then he will have the cadet championships where a win again will offer him the chance to represent Ireland, this time on the stage of the European Championships.

Wall spoke on the club environment in Sacred Heart and the impact they've had.

"The coaches have been absolutely brilliant, without them I wouldn't be here. They've brought me to where I am. I wouldn't be nearly as good as I am without them.They're amazing."

February Team of the Month

Holy Family CS

HOLY Family Community School Rathcoole girls football team have been named Active South Dublin's Team of the Month for February.

The side would win the FAI Schools Senior Girls National Cup final after a dramatic penalty shootout win over Ursuline's College from Sligo.

The game marked the first Senior National Cup final appearance for both teams and was razor close throughout the game.

Sophie Flannary would be the one to break the deadlock for Rathcoole however Ursuline's would equalise less than ten minutes later.

The game finished 1-1 at the end of regular time and the teams could not be further separated after the addition of extra time either.

This left the contest hanging in the balance of a penalty shootout where it would be Rathcoole who kept their nerve on the day, particularly in thanks to a huge performance in goal from Naoise Coughlan.

The Holy Family shotstopper managed to save three penalties (as well as an additional fourth that would have to be retaken) in order to win the cup for her school.



Holy Family Community School players Sophie Flannery, Michelle Muddiman and Sadie Keane along with team coach James Shannon, receive the Active South Dublin Team of the Month for February from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, and Oswin Monteiro, Duty Manager at The Plaza Hotel and William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo*

Tennis

‘Come and Try Tennis’ sessions in Airlie Park

SDCC and Active South Dublin are teaming up with Tennis Ireland to deliver new tennis programmes at Airlie Park in Lucan, *reports Michael Howley.*

Called ‘Come and Try Tennis’ the programmes are led by coaches from Tennis Ireland with sessions designed for participation and enjoyment rather than performance.

The sessions are also highly subsidised with Adults over the age of 55 having to pay just €10 for six sessions and women and beginners paying €27.80 for the six week programme.

The initiative is set to begin on Wednesday April 8th and finish on the 13th of May.

The over 55s category is known as Golden Game Tennis and will take place from 5pm to 6pm.

The sessions will use red and orange tennis balls which are softer and bounce lower than standard issue balls which make rallies easier to control and more enjoyable.

The Women Try Tennis sessions will take place from 6pm-7pm while the beginner Adult tennis takes place from 7pm-8pm.

To book your place access the event on Eventbrite and search ‘try tennis Airlie’.

Athletics

Jobstown Running Club hold Couch to 5km graduation run



Members of the Jobstown Running Club in Corkagh Park with Rovers manager Stephen Bradley and assistant coach Glenn Cronin

JOBSTOWN Running Club recently celebrated the completion of its 2026 Couch to 5km program with a graduation run that took place in Corcagh Park, *reports Michael Howley.*

After ten weeks of braving rain, wind and freezing temperatures runners benefitted from some much needed sunny weather on the day.

Jobstown Running Club was founded just under five years ago by Stephen Martin as a way to help people in Jobstown as well as surrounding areas to stay active during Covid 19 lockdowns.

What began as a small local initiative has since grown into a thriving community club. It continues to grow today with more than 30 new members joining through this year’s Couch to 5k programme with the numbers showing no signs of stopping in future.

Shamrock Rovers manager and assistant coach Stephen Bradley and Glenn Cronin were also present for the event and cheered on participants as well as handed out medals to the new graduates.

Their presence was a special highlight for runners, many of whom cited it as a memorable part of the day.

The club also acknowledged the vital support that it has received throughout the programme from various organisations.

SCD Leisure Tallaght has provided a safe and reliable meeting point every Tuesday and Thursday offering space for warm ups and group coordination.

Active South Dublin has been a long standing supporter supplying essential equipment such as high visibility clothing, which ensured the runners could train safely during the darker evenings of winter.

The club also expressed its appreciation for the continued backing of its sponsor, The Jobstown House whose support has helped sustain the running club’s ongoing development.

With another successful programme completed and over 30 new members joining the ranks the future looks bright for Jobstown Running Club.

The spirit of community, resilience and encouragement that defines the club was on full display at Corcagh Parkrun, an inspiring example of how local initiatives can make a lasting difference.

14 Donore runners take part in the Tallaght 5K



Donore Harrier runners at the Tallaght 5k

DONORE Harriers have been involved in multiple events in recent weeks, both at home and abroad, *reports Michael Howley.*

The club had 14 runners participating in the Tallaght 5k on St Patrick’s Day with Alex Twomey being the first over the finish line from the club.

The club also had sizable numbers competing at the Dunboyne 10km.

19 members in total took part with Adam Nason being the first man home from the club taking ninth place while Orinta Donele was the first woman over the finish line. The men’s team would overall finish in second position.

In international competition Adam Noone and Ailbhe Finucan competed for Ireland at the school’s international cross country tournament in Bangor Wales with the duo winning team silver and bronze respectively.

Manuel Fontan Garcia competed abroad in the Madrid Half Marathon where he finished 154th overall and 14th in the M40 category with a time of 1.18.27.

Kishor Shelake in his native India competed in the Ootyultra 50km race and won first place overall with a time of 5.08.34, finishing 28 minutes ahead of second place.

Gavin Mulhern ran the hilly La Valette half marathon in Malta’s capital city Valletta in a time of 83 minutes.



Adam Nason crosses the line at the Dunboyne 10k

Golf

Photos by Paddy Barrett

New captains drive off in Slade Valley Golf Club



Shane and Seán Manscier



Paul Byrne and Noel Larkin



Declan Warde, John Keegan and Aidan Knight



Joan Nolan, Cáit Jacob and Margaret Kennedy

On Saturday last the sun sun shone brightly as the new captains held their drive in, with Mary Cleary as women's captain and Dominic Reilly as the men's captain, *reports Michael Howley.*

Cleary was previously captain for the club several years ago during Covid while Riley first joined Slade Valley as a youngster in 1978.

A Tallaght native, he would go on to make a living as a professional golfer competing in tournaments both domestic and internationally.

Reilly would be reinstated as an amateur in 2022 and at the beginning of 2023, rejoined the club where he had found his love of golf decades previously.

The role of the captains of the club involve being an ambassador of sorts as well as a figurehead leader for the various male and female members within the club.

There are a number of initiatives and events planned for Slade Valley throughout 2026.

The women's section will see the return of the "Get into Golf" programme.

Run for the last number of years, the initiative aims to encourage more women to take up golf. The first session is set for April 14th.

No experience is needed and coaching is provided over multiple weeks.

Reilly spoke on the Get into Golf programme.

"The purpose of the exercise isn't necessarily to encourage people to join Slade Valley, it's to get more women involved in golf and to take away some of the mystique to golf courses from the public and encourage them to come in and get involved. It's been running very well the past couple of years in Slade Valley."

"For myself personally as a professional golfer for all those years I taught an awful lot of people how to play golf over that time. I see something like 'get into golf' as a wonderful thing. My job was to try encourage people to play golf so it would grow and develop and the future was sustainable. This 'Get into Golf' initiative is doing the same thing and personally I think it's a wonderful program."

Another highlight for the club this year will come towards the back end of August as Slade Valley golf club will play host to the All Ireland mixed four ball finals.

"Clubs could be coming anywhere from Armagh all the way down to Kerry. It's a fantastic honour for Slade Valley to be given rights to host those finals. It's a huge thing for the club to be recognised as a golf course to hold the finals. All of the club will be gearing up to make a really good impression on those days and making those teams from wherever they are from feel welcome. It's a great opportunity to put us on the map."

The club has seen much financial improvement over the last number of years with over €100,000 reinvested back into the club and course throughout 2025.

There has also been a huge increase in outside interest with a 100% increase in revenue generated from green fees and individuals visiting the club also.

This combined with the upcoming plans for 2026 have ensured that a sense of optimism is prevalent around the club at the minute.



Cáit Jacob, Marie O'Reilly, Michael Broderick and Niamh Cleary



Kieran, Greg, Dave and Niall



Members of Slade Valley Golf Club



Men's vice-captain Joe Kavanagh and Lady vice-captain Colette McPhilips



Lady captain Mary Cleary and Mens captain Dominic Reilly

Hockey

Three Rock and Loreto enjoy wins in league

THERE would be plenty of action in Hockey over the past weekend with Three Rock Rovers in both league and cup fixtures as well as Loreto also playing in the league, *reports Michael Howley.*

In the men's AIG Irish Senior Cup, Three Rock Rovers claimed a sensational win away to Banbridge to reach their first final since 2019.

A goal from James Walker and Conor Walsh sent them on their way before Banbridge halved the deficit before half time.

Walker would grab another though it would be a nervy finish as Banbridge managed a goal themselves before the final whistle with the game finishing 3-2.

They will now play Lisnagarvey in the final after the other semi final ended up 6-1 in their favour as they beat Monkstown.

In the league Three Rock took revenge on YMCA after a provincial loss earlier in the week to climb to third in the table.

The game finished 3-0 with goals coming from Ben Johnson, Benjamin Ryder and Josh Gill.

In the women's EYHL Loreto took a major step towards a third successive league title as they beat Pegasus away from home.

The result puts them six points ahead of Railway Union who offer their stiffest competition currently in second place.

Karate

JKS members host powerful session with world champion



JKS Tallaght members with four-time World Kata champion Koji Arimoto



JKS Ireland have been visited over the past week by Koji Arimoto Sensei, a four time World Kata Champion and instructor from Japan who has been visiting the organisation's various Dojo's across the country, *reports Michael Howley.*

The events saw members afforded the opportunity to train with a world champion with the first session taking place in JKS Swords.

As the tour continued participants across Ireland came together with over 50 training together at various stages. The sense of community and shared passion for karate was clear to see.

The final day of the tour was hosted by JKS Tallaght which brought the event to a powerful conclusion.

Arimoto delivered a session where he covered fundamental kihon techniques before progressing through the Heian Kata and then concluded with advanced Kata such as Jion, Jitte and Jiin techniques. It was a fitting end to a week filled with learning, discipline and growth.

Philip sensei of JKS Tallaght said "we're honoured to host Arimoto Sensei and to train under his guidance. The knowledge, spirit and experience he shared over the four days will remain with all who attended for a long time."

JKS would like to thank everyone who made the tour possible with a special thanks going to Dermot O'Keeffe Sensei for organising and coordinating as well as Philip Sensei and JSK Tallaght for hosting the last day of the tour.

The event was a memorable and inspiring experience for everyone involved and a great reflection of the strength and unity within the karate community.

Great display from Cayden at TMA Show



BMA kickboxer Cayden Derwin after his win over Craig Evans of Eagle Martial Arts

LOCAL BMA Clondalkin kickboxing talent Cayden Derwin delivered an outstanding performance at the TMA Fight Show on Saturday, March 21, *reports Michael Howley.*

The event was held at Kilnamanagh Recreational Centre and saw Derwin achieve a unanimous decision victory over Craig Evans of Eagle Martial Arts.

Competing in a -71kg K1 bout over three rounds of two minutes each, Derwin showed resilience and composure throughout the contest.

The opening round saw a slow start from the young fighter with his opponent edging ahead on all three judge's scorecards.

Derwin responded impressively in round two as he increased the pace and took control of the fight.

Sharp knee strikes, combined with long range one-two combinations allowed him to turn the tide and finish the round ahead on all judges scorecards.

Carrying that momentum into the third and final round, Derwin maintained his dominance and dictated the tempo, landing the cleaner and more effective shots.

The final bell saw a clear unanimous victory for the BMA Clondalkin fighter with his head coach Ilija Salerno very happy with the outcome.

"It was a great performance, especially after just being back from the Italy World Cup,"

Swimming

Ellen wins three medals at Open Meet in Paris

TEMPLEOGUE swimmer Ellen Walshe recently won three medals at the giant Open Meet in Paris which she competed in last weekend, *reports Michael Howley.*

The first of these medals was a silver medal in the 200m Breastroke final which saw her finish with a time of 2:24.51.

Walshe would go on to claim another silver later on that day after podiuming in the 200m Butterfly final with a time of 2:09.19.

The following day she would make it a hat-trick of silvers as she finished second place in the 200m Individual Medley with a time of 2:10.97.

Also competing in Paris was Limerick swimmer John Shortt.

Shortt broke a national record in the 200m backstroke final and earned himself a gold medal in the process with a time of 1:56.07. This broke the previous record of 1:56.19 which was also set by Shortt last year in Romania on his way to a world junior gold medal.

All Irish swimmers will be back in action at the Irish Open Swimming Championships and Commonwealth Games Trials from April 8th – 12th at the Bangor Aurora Centre in Down.

This event will see places on summer international teams including the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and European Championships in Paris, up for grabs.

Pitch & Putt

RGSC name captains ahead of new season



Members of Roadstone Group Social Club Pitch and Putt Club



Paddy Gaynor (Chairman) with the two new captains Marie Dooley and Jim Donegan

RGSC Pitch and Putt club has announced its new captains ahead of the upcoming year with Marie Dooley and Jim Donegan being awarded the roles, *reports Michael Howley.*

The pair were captains before with the club several years ago and are both long term members with each being involved with the organisation for around 20 years.

The duo will represent the club at upcoming competitions for the year which will be hosted by the club.

2026 is set to be a big year for RGSC Pitch and Putt with the Leinster intercounty which will take place in July.

The club also held an extremely successful event recently with Ladies day at the start of the month which was organised by member Louise Grace.

The event saw over 100 women from around the country arrive at the club and compete with one another.

The annual event acts as a social event and aims to get more women interested in the sport, as well as competitions they held a bingo event which is also a part of the occasion. The club also plans to expand its youth sector with that being a major goal for 2026. Currently over 70 members are involved in the club, the chief demographic are around 70 years old.

They have seen success in recent times however with attracting younger members into the club, particularly through offering one off uses of facilities via a 'green fee' which is just seven euro.

The club is able to operate all year round and offers full membership for €170, competitions take place from Friday to Sunday and are social events with tea, biscuits and

Glenville focus on expanding youth

GLENVILLE Pitch and Putt Club are planning to put major focus on expanding their youth section, as stated in a previous interview with *The Echo*.

One aspect of that was becoming more involved in the local community, particularly with schools from around the area.

This was put to practice last Monday as the club received visitors from the two 6th classes in St. Martin de Porres NS as part of the school's Active Week Programme.

This wasn't the first time that the school had visited the club as they were given the opportunity earlier on in the year and were more than happy to return to the club for a second time.

Children from the school devised a report highlighting their experience in the club. Written by Seán McNulty, Patricia Ebengo Mbuyi and Alara Raheel, Ms O'Loughlin's 6th Class it reads as follows.

"When we arrived, we got an extremely warm welcome from lots of club members who had kindly volunteered to show us how to play. The children from the two classes were divided into smaller groups and assigned their own volunteer, which we think was a good idea, as everyone played fairly and nobody was waiting too long for their turn."

"We were then given our golf balls, tees and clubs, which they told us were called putters and wedges. We headed to our tee boxes, teed off and played pitch and putt. The volunteers gave us some great tips to help us improve our performance. It was amazing to see how much we all learned and improved in the two hours we were there. We even got to meet the Club Captains of the club and have our pictures taken."

Overall the experience was a success with Glenville hoping that more young people will follow suit and begin to join the club. For any juvenile membership enquiries get in contact with 085-1742257



Pupils from St Martin de Porres during schools Active Week

GAA

Senior hurling teams search for points

THERE is a busy week of action this weekend in the AHL with plenty of local teams competing with all games set to take place this Sunday with a 10:30am start, *reports Michael Howley.*

In Division 1 Ballyboden take on Naomh Barrog at Pairc Ui Mhurchu. Boden have only been able to play one game so far in the league and will hope to keep their season going strong with a big win.

Barrog have lost their opening two fixtures against Lucan and Castleknock respectively.

Lucan Sarsfields are also in action this weekend as they take on Cuala in Shanganagh Park. Sarsfields sit top of the table on four points ahead of both St Vincents and Na Fianna in point difference.

Faughs Celtic host Kilmacud Crokes in Tymon Park. They will be looking to build on momentum of their last game when they defeated St Brigids by a seven point scoreline after an frustrating defeat to Na Fianna in the opening game of the season.

St Judes will also be playing in Tymon Park this weekend as they host Castleknock. Judes have lost their opening two games of the league though admittedly have come against stiff opposition in Ballyboden St Endas and St Vincents.

In Division 2 Commercials make the journey to Finglas as they take on Erins Isle.

Commercials will be looking to rebound after a loss to Ballinteer St Johns in the last round of fixtures.

Thomas Davis host Naomh Mearnog at Kiltipper Road and are still searching for their first win of the campaign after drawing both of their first two games in the league.

Ballyboden St Enda's second side break the mould when it comes to start times with their game against St Vincents taking place this Friday night in Blanchardstown IT against St Oliver Plunketts ER with a 7:45pm throw in.

Round Towers Clondalkin make the short trip to 12th Lock to play Lucan Sarsfields also at the weekend in AHL 3.

Towers picked up a big win in their last game against Setanta and will hope to keep that momentum going with a win over Sarsfields who currently sit fourth in the table with a draw and a win in their opening two games.

'We just have to put our heads down and get back to work'

THE Dublin Footballers saw themselves relegated to Division 2 for 2027 after a defeat to Galway in Pearse Stadium last Sunday with the final score reading 0-20 to 1-15, *reports Michael Howley.*

There were several local players in the squad with Ballyboden St Enda's trio Hugh O Sullivan, Ross McGarry and Alex Gavin starting while Niall Scully of Templeogue Synge Street also made the starting XV.

Dublin would actually put in an extremely solid performance in the first half with a massive save from O'Sullivan preventing a Rob Finnerty penalty from being converted at the stroke of half time.

It appeared to trigger Dublin tempers however with a scuffle breaking out at halftime and manager Ger Brennan receiving a red card for his involvement.

Despite going into the break up by 0-12 to 0-07, but it appeared that they had been rattled going into the break and both teams would have a player temporarily dismissed with black cards for the scuffle upon the resumption of the second half, Peadar O Cofaigh Byrne being the Dublin man involved.

From this point onwards old issues came back to haunt the Dubs as the team began to kick over a series of wides, Galway on the other hand found a burst of momentum with Finnerty and Oisin Mac Donnacha both kicking frees and Paul Conroy managing a two pointer to bring the deficit to just two points by the 46th minute.

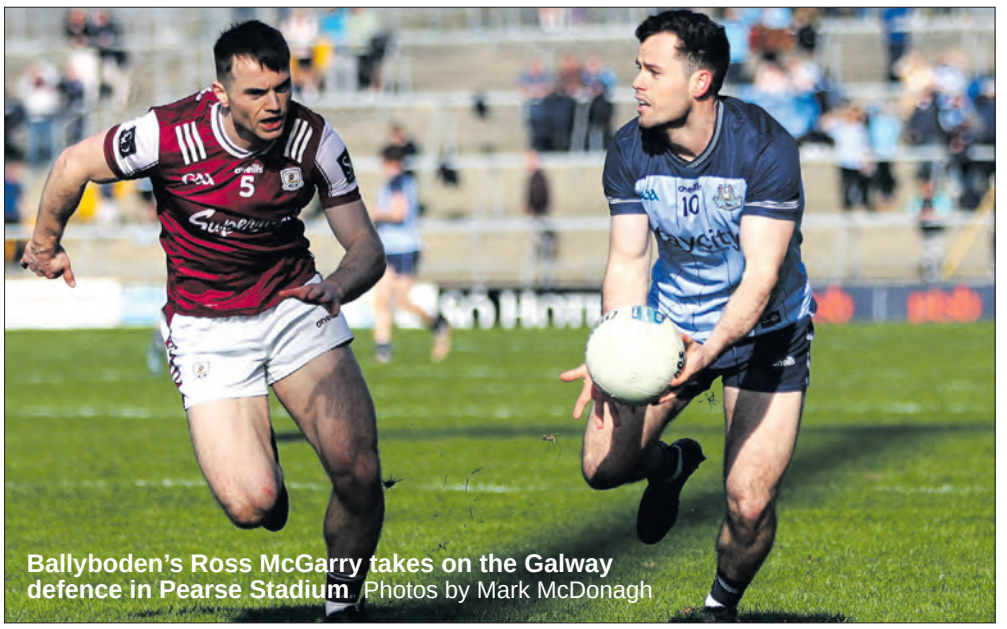
Things would get worse again for Dublin as O'Cofaigh Byrne would receive a second booking at the start of the final quarter which left them a man down for the remainder of the game.

They appeared to respond positively to this with Killian McGinnis managing to score the only goal on the day shortly after but the numerical advantage of Galway would be very apparent in the closing minutes.

Rob Finnerty, Liam O Conghaile and Cian Hernon and kicked over scores with Hernon eventually leveling the sides in the 66th minute.

From there Galway would go on to win the game rather handily. Dublin kept the ball for the last 90 seconds or so of the match, refusing to take a shot and waiting until the last 20 seconds or so to attempt an ambitious two pointer which ended up going wide, not close to the target.

With no time left on the clock the referee blew the whistle, confirming Galway's survival and Dublin's relegation to Division 2.



Ballyboden's Ross McGarry takes on the Galway defence in Pearse Stadium Photos by Mark McDonagh

Ger Brennan spoke about the team's league campaign this year.

"In terms of the league as a whole I think there's an awful lot of green shoots there. Between some of the personnel that we've managed to unearth and some of the guys from last year have gotten more game time this season. You can see their development and that's a huge positive. From Round 1 to Round 7 there's a lot of positives but ultimately if you only win two games you're playing with fire and we are down to Division 2."

Brennan was also asked whether he felt the league campaign adequately prepared the squad for championship in four weeks time.

"Certainly so, we've done that. We just have to put our heads down and get back to work and try to improve. The last three performances saw some wonderful positives in terms of how we played and just getting that bit of concentration, to extend it over 70 minutes to ensure that we are there or thereabouts when the final whistle goes."

County senior camogie team march into league final

THE Dublin Camogie team booked themselves into a Division 1B final as they defeated Limerick 2-17 to 2-08 in Abbotstown last Saturday afternoon, *reports Michael Howley.*

There was plenty of local talent involved in the squad with St Jude's Aisling, Niamh and Claire Gannon all involved as well as Faughs Celtic's Kerrie Finnegan being named in the starting XV.

On the bench were two more Jude's players, Leah Butler and Eimear Kehoe while Enya Kennedy, Hannah Leddy and Emma Moran represented Ballyboden St Enda's with Niamh Roche from Lucan Sarsfields also present.

Dublin got off to the game with an excellent start as they established the bulk of their lead within the first 15 minutes of the game.

Goals from Grace O'Shea and Aisling Maher in the first half gave Dublin the platform to go on and win the game and the match was effectively over by half time as they possessed a 10 point lead with the scoreline reading 2-09 to 1-02.

Both sides utilised substitutes extensively in the second half but the outcome of the game had already been decided as the two sides traded points throughout the remainder with Dublin winning by a sizable nine point margin.

The win means that Dublin, like their hurling counterparts, will be taking part in a Division 1B final against Clare with the Banner county going undefeated in their league campaign with four wins and a draw to their name.

The two sides drew in their previous encounter in the league with Dublin's lone defeat coming to Down in February.



Faughs Kerrie Finnegan in action for Dublin against Shauna Cunningham Limerick. Photos by Martina McGilloway

GAA

Dubs earn promotion back to top flight



Dublin's Chris Crummy.
Photo by Shay Hogan

THE Dublin Hurlers confirmed their promotion to Division 1A ahead of 2027 with a 14 point victory over Carlow in Cullen Park on Saturday afternoon with the final score reading 0-34 to 2-14, *reports Michael Howley.*

There were several local players involved in the game. Chris Crummey of Lucan Sarsfields captained while Commercial's Diarmaid O Dulaing and Thomas Davis' Davy Keogh made impact off the bench in the second half.

Dublin dominated throughout the majority of the first half though found themselves just three points ahead at half time thanks to a Carlow resurgence in the final five minutes of the half.

Two excellent goals at half time saw the interval score at 0-18 to 2-09 but Dublin responded strongly in the second half with Carlow managing just five points in the second half of the game.

Dublin were denied a goal in the second half through the heroic efforts of Carlow keeper Kyle Foley but were more than comfortable with free flowing scoring throughout the last 35 minutes of the game ensuring that they got the win.

The result means that Dublin have confirmed themselves for promotion with their vastly superior score difference giving them the nod over Wexford after the two counties finished on the same points tally.

Dublin will now contest a league final against Clare in a week's time.

Manager Niall O Ceallachain touched on the importance of the win after the game.

"I think for this team I think it's really important. It's an important step for this group as regards to where they are going. We just fell short last year of getting out of Division 1B and it's definitely something we wanted to do this year, taking that first step and going up to 1A. A league final is great as well as there is not many finals that we have been in over the last eight or ten years so we're looking forward to that to in a fortnight's time."

Despite the final on the horizon, the Dublin boss let it be known where the real priority of the team lay in looking at future fixtures.

"The final is important to us but it's all about four weeks time. We have Offaly away in Tullamore in the first game of the Leinster Championship. That's a massive game. There'll be lots of challenge games happening in the next couple of weeks but there is no substitute for actual competition. For us that league title is big, for a national title for sure but it can play a key part in us being right in four weeks time as well. We're very pleased to be in the league final."

Na Gaeil Óga off to a good start to the season



Na Gaeil Óga junior footballers have three wins from three this season

NA GAEIL Óga continued their strong start to the season with a four point victory over Naomh Barrog last weekend in Coolock with the final score finishing 1-11 to 1-07 in their favour, *reports Michael Howley.*

The win is their third of the season and leaves them with three wins out of three games at this early point in the league campaign, top of the table in the AFL Division 7.

They defeated Clontarf and Round Towers Lusk in previous rounds of the competition.

Formed in just 2010, league placement is not the highest of priorities for the side at the minute as the club is on the cusp of its first wave of underage talent coming through the set up.

Unique in that it is one of the only Irish language clubs outside of Gaelteacht areas in the country with day to day operations in the club being conducted through Irish.

Formed in just 2010, the Lucan based side did not establish an underage set up until 2015 and now 11 years later are seeing the fruits of their labour as that first wave of underage talent is coming to the forefront.

Now playing at minor level, several players have been able to get minutes with the senior second side.

The focus on the club at the moment therefore is on blooding in this new wave of talent who will represent the first generation players who have gone from the very beginning of their GAA journey to the end with Na Gaeil Óga.

Previously players simply lived in the Lucan area but came from areas all over the country.

Manager of the Senior side James Knoblauch touched on the wave of talent coming through in the club.

"I'm happy with where we are going at the moment, we're just taking it one game at a time. Behind it all though is the minors. They're coming through and getting them embedded in the second team and embedded in the adult structure. The local lads who are coming through and eventually they will be the ones running the club. Making that line secure from the underage to the adult section of the team, I think that's a massive achievement for the club. It's not easy to set up a club in Irish and it's a massive testament to all the work done by those who came before us in 2010 and 2015."

"We've a big first team, panel this year so the lads now are coming through. I'd probably see them more next year coming through than this year but there will definitely be opportunities for them this year as well. The more physical side of things that can take time to develop."

Clearly the future of the club looks to be very bright in the long term, in the short term however they must defend their position at the top of the table as they take on Scoil Ui Chonail in their next match which is set for the 12th of April in St Catherine's Park.

St Mary's seniors bag vital away victory in Donabate

ST MARY'S Saggart's AFL 1 side secured a vital away win against St Patricks in Donabate last Saturday evening with the final scoreline reading 4-13 to 4-09 in their favour, *reports Michael Howley.*

It was a quick start from the side from Saggart who raced out of the blocks early to build up an impressive six point lead with Colin Lawlor and Conor Jameson scoring early on.

These would be supplemented by two pointers from goalkeeper George Kenny as well as Jamie McCarville.

McCarville made his intercounty debut for Dublin in the O'Byrne Cup earlier on in the year and impressed across several performances for the Boys in Blue in the pre-season tournament.

Perhaps Ger Brennan should consider him again for the panel given the team's recent difficulties in converting two pointers.

St Mary's would find themselves extending their lead further thanks to a goal from Blaine Kelly but St Pats would not roll over easily and came back with two goals of their own.

Both goals coming from Dylan Knight Sands reduced the St Mary's advantage down to just three points as the halftime whistle sounded.

Pat's maintained that momentum into the second half of the game and managed to draw level at one stage.

Mary's regrouped well however and reestablished their lead through the efforts of full back Ciaran Dunne and centre forward Rhys Butler.

They would push on to victory and get over the line courtesy of goals from Conor Jameson and Alex Darcy which gave them the narrow four point win.

The result marks the second win of the season for St Mary's who had beaten St Jude's in the previous game to this.

After losing their opening league game against Raheny the side now sit on four points, joint with Cuala, Kilmacud Crokes and Ballyboden St Endas in the table.

They take on Castleknock in their next league game on the 11th of April with the side one place behind them in the table, though they are coming off a loss to Skerries Harps in their most recent bout of fixtures.

GAA

Senior football teams back in league action

IT WAS a busy weekend of action just gone in the AFL with teams competing across the top three divisions, *reports Michael Howley.*

Ballyboden St Enda's suffered their first defeat of the season as they lost out to Ballymun Kickhams away from home.

The game would end with a six point margin as Kickhams got the win over the current league champions 1-17 to 2-08.

Coming into the game both sides had perfect records from the opening two games as Kickham's had managed wins over Clontarf and St Vincents while Boden picked up victories over Kilmacud Crokes and St Pats Donabate.

Boden will be hoping to get themselves back in the win column in their next outing as they take on St Vincents.

Thomas Davis were defeated by Kilmacud Crokes 1-22 to 1-07 in Stillorgan. Davis came into the game off the back of a big win against Raheny but were unable to match the offense of Crokes.

They return to Kiltipper for their next game which sees them host St Patricks Donabate.

St Judes are yet to manage a win in the league as they lost fairly decisively to Na Fianna in Tymon Park with the scoreline reading 1-06 to 3-22 against them.

They find themselves second from bottom in the standings after losing their first two games though have a game in hand after their opening fixture against Skerries Harps was called off due to poor weather.

They hope to get their first win on the board in their next game when they travel to Hyde Park to face Cuala.

Lucan Sarsfields managed a big 2-19 to 1-08 win over St Vincents to build on their momentum after a draw in their last fixture against Castleknock.

Now sitting eighth in the table they will look to begin ascending as their next game sees them travel to St Annes Park to take on Clontarf.

In AFL Division 2 Templeogue Synge Street were just pipped to the post by Fingallians as they lost at home by 0-12 to 1-10 on Friday night.

The result leaves them with one win in their first three games and they currently sit in ninth place.

Division 3 saw Round Towers Clondalkin beaten by Na Fianna also by a point in Dardistown with the final score reading 0-20 to 2-13 in favour of the home side.

The result marked their first defeat of the campaign after they had beaten Castleknock and Clontarf in previous games.

Must win game for Dubs in final league encounter

DUBLIN'S LGFA side were defeated by Galway via a six point margin in Tuam last Saturday with the final score reading 3-13 to 1-13, *reports Michael Howley.*

There were a number of local players involved in the squad with Lucan Sarsfield's Abby Shiels and Sophie McIntyre in the starting line up while St Jude's Orla Keighran and Ballyboden St Enda's pair Kate Donaghy and Rebecca McDonnell made appearances from the substitutes bench.

It would be the first half that gave Galway the platform to go on and win the game with the side managing goals from Kate Slevin, Kate Thompson and Leanne Coen all before halftime.

The interval saw the score at 3-05 to 0-06 with the goalscoring form being the key difference between the two sides.

Dublin mounted a fight back in the second half, going on a spree of scores with Carla Rowe, Kate Sullivan and St Jude's Orla Keighran cutting down the deficit from nine to just four points.



Dublin and Lucan Sarsfield's goalkeeper Abby Shiels in action against Andrea Trill of Galway
Photos by Sportsfile



Sophie McIntyre of Lucan Sarsfields and Dublin during the National Football League match between Galway and Dublin at Tuam Stadium

They were unable to stop the Galway machine however and the homeside would again build up a substantial lead in the minutes after this Dublin purple patch.

Dublin would eventually get a goal of their own after Carla Rowe reacted quickest to an Orlagh Nolan free which hit the post in the 53rd minute but the damage would be too great at that stage with things becoming even harder after they found themselves down to 14 players thanks to a Rebecca McDonnell yellow card.

Dublin now are in a must win match in next week's round of fixtures as they take on table toppers Cork with the threat of relegation looming for the Girls in Blue.

Dubs U20s start Leinster Championship in Wexford

THE Dublin U20s Leinster Championship began this Wednesday with a game against Wexford in Chadwicks National Park yesterday evening, *reports Michael Howley.*

The team is managed by former All star and multiple All-Ireland winner Johnny Cooper with a number of players from local teams involved.

Oisin Costello, Hugh O'Neill and Billy Shouldice fly the flag for St Judes. Cillian Murray and Callum O'Dwyer represent Ballyboden St Endas.

Also in the squad are Lucan Sarsfield's duo Rian Doherty and Cian Gavin.

After the game against Wexford, Dublin are set to play the following games against Louth on April 1st before a match against Westmeath on April 8th.

Cooper spoke on the mentality of the squad heading into the tournament.

"These are guys who are 17,18,19 years of age and there is experience that will come with this. There is absolutely excitement, I'm sure there is some nerves and some anxiousness also but that's to be expected. That's what you would expect managing a team. Ultimately it's about trying to get them to express themselves and be themselves. Overall excitement is high. We're looking forward to going to Wexford park and if it's like any of my experiences playing there or against Wexford then it is going to be such a tough test."

Cooper also touched on his own foray into the world of management and how he is finding life on the sidelines rather than on the pitch.

"For me as a player having the opportunity to play for Dublin brought such pride and it was a privilege. I think on this occasion for me and the rest of the coaching staff it's a responsibility. We would have received all of our dedication, support and care as players and it's time to play our part in that. I've experienced a new vantage point, certainly a busier one. Being part of the group and trying to facilitate the ambitions of 30 odd players is a challenge but ultimately it is a privilege to be in the position"

GAA

Dubs minor camogie team slip past Offaly



Dublin's Niamh O'Brien from Lucan Sarsfields in action against Ailbhe Martin Offaly
Photos by Martina McGilloway

The Dublin Minor Camogie team won the Leinster U18 A Shield after defeating Offaly in the final last Sunday at O'Toole park with a scoreline of 2-16 to 0-08, *reports Michael Howley.*

There was plenty of local representation within the squad.

Lucan Sarsfields boasted Niamh O'Brien and Reka Kiss Kallo in the starting line up with Cara Coffey and Juliette Harford named on the bench.

Emma Ryan from Crumlin was also involved in the starting XV.

Kate Keaney from Ballyboden St Enda's was also present on the bench along with Ella Sliney of St Pats Palmerstown.

Minors begin Leinster C'ship campaign

THE Dublin Minor Football squad began their Leinster Championship campaign on Tuesday evening where they came up against Offaly at Parnell Park, with 3-14 to 1-13 victory, *reports Michael Howley.*

There are a number of local players involved with the squad.

Ballyboden St Enda's have two players present in the panel, Bobby Doyle and Jamie Heavey. As do St Jude's and Lucan Sarsfields.

Adam Becton and Shay Evans fly the flag for Judes while Daniel Guilfoyle and Evan Walsh play for Sarsfields.

Templeogue Synge Street also have a player involved in the squad with David Lombard being awarded a jersey.

Following the game against Offaly Dublin will have a game against Westmeath this coming Tuesday before a match against Longford on April 14th.

The team is managed by St Judes man David Reynolds with Ballyfermot Gaels man Paul O'Brien acting as joint head coach alongside David Moran of Na Fianna.

Ballyboden U15s topple Tower's in feile decider



Ballyboden St Enda's won the U15 Division 11 Football Feile final

THE Dublin Feile took place over the weekend with various U15 teams across the county competing across a variety of different divisions with plenty of local sides involved also, *reports Michael Howley.*

Ballyboden St Enda's won the Division 11 final with a narrow two point victory over Clondalkin Round Towers at Russell Park.

The final score of the game was 3-3 to 1-07 in Boden's favour.

Boden also had teams involved in other divisions of the Feile. They were defeated in the Division 2 semi final by St Vincent's 1-05 to 0-03.

Round Towers Clondalkin had another team play in Division 4 where they were defeated by Erins Isle in the semi-final with the final score reading 1-11 to 2-03.

Thomas Davis reached the Division 4 final following a win over Clanna Gael Fontenoy but were defeated by Erin's Isle in the final game.

Boxing

Sacred Heart boxers impress

SACRED Heart boxing club have seen great success in recent weeks with the Killinarden outfit having fighters compete across a variety of championships and tournaments, *reports Michael Howley.*

Jayden Wall secured gold in the 60kg weight class at the recent Boys and Girls National Championships with a win over European Champion Kieran McDonagh of Olympic Galway.

The fight was a fairly dominant display by Wall who secured a standing count in the first round of the bout and would go on to win via Unanimous Decision.

Born in 2011, The result makes Wall an All Ireland Champion and he will go on to face off against the 2010 born National Champion on April 17th for a chance to compete at the prestigious 4 Nations tournament which will be held in June.

His clubmate Keelan Tormey won a silver medal in his final at the tournament after an extremely competitive showing saw him just miss out on a win against Dylan Corcoran in the 63kg final.

Jessie Dam also won gold at the Third Level Championships representing Maynooth University with a win over UCD's Robert Devilly.

Jayden Wall and Abbey Molloy also recently represented the club on the International stage with the Toth Akos memorial boxing tournament held in Hungary.

Wall performed exceptionally well to dominate two Hungarian opponents which secured him a gold in the U17 category while Abbey Molloy battled it out for gold with highly rated Hungarian fighter Patrica Petriman.

The fighters would compete in two bouts with Molloy earning herself a comfortable win in the first fight but Petriman would edge it in the second.

Molloy would be awarded the gold medal after winning more rounds across the two bouts.



Jayden Wall



Jessie Dam

Soccer

Crawford names squad for U21 clash in Tallaght

TALLAGHT native and Ireland U21 boss Jim Crawford has named his side ahead of the upcoming U21 Euro qualifiers which will take place against Moldova and Kazakhstan, *reports Michael Howley.*

The game against Moldova is set for tonight in Tallaght Stadium with a 5.15pm kick off while the Kazakhstan game will take place at the Turkestan arena in central Asia.

There are plenty of local faces involved in the squad including current Shamrock Rover's starter Adam Brennan who has been named in the U21 setup for the first time.

Corey O'Sullivan of Shamrock Rovers also makes the list along with clubmate Michael Noonan.

One notable admission from the squad is that of captain James Abankwah. The current Watford and former St Patrick's Athletic central defender has made the step up to the senior squad following strong performances for his club in the championship this season.

The full squad reads as follows.

Goalkeepers include Noah Jauny (Stade Brestois), Aaron Maguire (Hampton and Richmond Borough on loan from Tottenham Hotspur), Conor Walsh (Shelbourne).

The defensive unit is made up of Sam Curtis (Chesterfield), Cathal McCarthy (Hull City), Conor McManus (Brentford), Alex Murphy (Newcastle United), Corey O'Sullivan (Shamrock Rovers), David Okagbue (Peterborough United) and Gabriel Otegbayo (Sheffield Wednesday).

Midfielders included are Romeo Akachukwu (Colchester United, on loan from Southampton), Jacob Devaney (St Mirren, on loan from Manchester United), Darius Lipsiuc (Solihull Moors, on loan from Stoke City), Jack Moorhouse (Manchester United), Jamie Mullins (Wycombe Wanderers) and Aaron Ochoa Moloney (Malaga).

Finally the list of forwards into the squad is composed of Leon Ayinde (Ipswich Town), Adam Brennan (Shamrock Rovers), Trent Kone Doherty (Molde), Tommy Lonergan (Waterford), Michael Noonan (Shamrock Rovers), Sean Patton (Reading) and Jaden Umeh (Benfica).

Kilnamanagh tops in five goal clash with Edenderry

IT WAS a busy week of action in the Leinster Senior League, *reports Michael Howley.*

Senior 1 saw Sacred Heart achieve a hugely impressive comeback draw with Glebe North to finish out the game 3-3.

Kilnamanagh AFC also were involved in a high scoring game as they secured a 3-2 victory against Edenderry.

Kilnamanagh had opened the scoring just under 20 minutes into the game was Scott Browne converted after an assist form Matthew Roze Anderson.

They would keep this lead up until halftime where they headed into the interval with a 1-0 margin.

Soon after the resumption of the game however they would be pegged back with Aaron McBride netting for Edenderry to make the game all square.

Roze Anderson got Kilnamanagh back in front on the hour mark with the assist coming courtesy of Jonathan O'Donoghue.

Again Edenderry fought their way back into the game with substitute James Carey scoring just over five minutes later.

It would appear that the points were destined to be split as the game entered into its final moments until Karl Chambers netted a 93rd minute winner for the home side, assisted by the first goalscorer of the day Scott Browne.

In Senior 1A Glenville would be defeated 1-0 away from home to Ayrfield United. The two teams sit in ninth and eighth place respectively with the loss allowing Ayrfield to leapfrog over Glenville into eighth position now.

It was a weekend for last minute goals as Senior 1B saw Jobstown Celtic manage a 1-0 victory against Baldoyle United at home. The lone goal of the game coming courtesy of Craig Keane Lynch in the 94th minute.

The win keeps Jobstown still in second place in the table with the side just one point behind Raheny United in first.

Leicester Celtic managed a 2-2 draw with Mount Merrion at home, though they will be frustrated after they had gone 2-0 up in the first half hour of the game.

Goals from Baboloki Tingwane and Cormac Clancy-Kelly early on put Leicester Celtic in the drivers seat but a goal later on in the first half and a second half penalty would see the points shared.

Newtown Rangers suffered a defeat at home to Enniskerry with the final scoreline reading 3-1. The home side had gone up 1-0 in the first ten minutes thanks to Ayo Obafemi but would conceded a pair of goals in quick succession in the second half before a third late on to rule themselves out of victory.

Local lads in inter provincial squad

THE Leinster Football team recently finished undefeated at the 2026 FAI Amateur Inter Provincial tournament which was held last weekend in Letterkenny, Donegal, *reports Michael Howley.*

The team was managed by former Templeogue manager Andy McNulty and consisted of players from all across the province including a number of local talents.

These included Sean O'Mahony King of St Francis, Regan Lennon of Lucan United and Sam Conway O'Donohoe of Crumlin United.

Leinster did not win the overall competition however, coming second though they did not taste defeat across the three games.

Their opening game saw them take on Connacht and after going 1-0 down in the first half, Leinster fired back into the drivers seat during the second half with goals from Dean Kelly and Dean Ivory.

They would be unable to hold onto the lead however and a Connacht goal deep into added time prevented them from taking the win.

Their second game against Ulster saw Leinster themselves avail of a late goal with Dean Kelly grabbing his second of the tournament to secure a 2-1 victory in the 85th minute.

After Munster had beaten both Ulster and Connacht, it came down to the final game to decide the overall winners of the tournament.



Sam Conway (Crumlin United) Photos by Andy McNulty



Sean O'Mahony - King (St Francis FC)

Munster would be the first to strike, going 1-0 ahead on the 24th minute of the game. They would double their lead just minutes later and headed into halftime with a fairly comfortable 2-0 lead.

Leinster made a number of changes through the second half and one of those subs, Tyler Doherty made a major impact scoring in the 59th minute to take the score to 2-1.

Leinster would not go down without a fight and were rewarded for their continuous grit in the 84th minute when St Francis man Sean O'Mahony King netted to make the score level.

Munster would survive the next few nervy minutes however to claim overall victory of the tournament and will now be the team to represent Ireland in UEFA's upcoming Regions Championships.

All systems got for Ireland

IREAND take on Czechia tonight in the first round of the World Cup playoff with the game to be held in Prague with a 7:45pm kick off, *reports Michael Howley.*

Firhouse native Gavin Bazunu was not included in the squad, currently on loan with Stoke City from Southampton Bazunu is recovering from an injury sustained in January.

Templeogue native Dara O'Shea has made the cut though and has been a regular feature for Ireland at centre back over the last number of games.

He will likely be paired alongside Leixlip native and Cherry Orchard youth product Nathan Collins.

Pats academy graduate James Abankwah has also been included in the squad after impressing on loan at Waterford this season from Italian side Udinese.

Ireland reached the playoff stage following the now almost legendary exploits of Troy Parrott with the striker scoring five goals in two games, a brace against Portugal and the famous hattrick against Hungary.

Currently playing for AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league Parrott has performed admirably this season as he has 28 goals in all competitions at club level, his total tally being at 33 when internationals are included.

The Czech opposition have identified him as a key threat with defender Tomas Holes emphasising his importance.

"One of the keys to winning the game is to eliminate Parrott. We have to pay close attention to him, see him all over the pitch, be as close to him as possible and not let him take the ball towards the goal. He's a complex forward who has speed and excellent runs. He's a football killer in the box."

Should Ireland get through Thursday's game they will have booked themselves a play off final against either North Macedonia or Denmark in the Aviva stadium on Tuesday night with the winner of that game going to the World Cup this summer.



Former Cherry Orchard player Nathan Collins will line out for Ireland against Czechia Photo by Matthew Lysaght

Soccer

Teams waiting 13 weeks to play football

BALLYFERMOT is one of the many communities who have felt the effect of lack of adequate training and playing facilities in recent months, *reports Michael Howley.*

It has been a much documented issue over the previous winter and has effected clubs all over South West Dublin across a wide range of sports and disciplines.

Ballyfermot United for example have seen issues for all teams with their U15s girls side going 13 weeks without playing a game of football.

Official within the club David Kavanagh touched on the situation facing the club and the issues that have arisen.

"We do live in Ireland and there is no magic wand to stop it from raining and to stop pitches getting worse but I don't recall it ever being as bad where teams would have to wait 13 weeks to play a match. The small sided kids and 11 a side have been up to eight or nine weeks waiting as well."

As well as the obvious issue of the children not being able to play matches, the situation can also cause major issues for parents and increase tensions in clubs overall.

"The managers are frustrated because all the effort getting put into training never gets put into practice. With matches getting called off every week you have a lot of people getting disinterested. The managers obviously start hearing from the parents also who are paying membership fees. The parents are rightly giving out to managers because their kids aren't playing any matches, the managers are then giving out to us on the committee and we're trying to say that we have no other choices."

The club are being told that their regular pitches in Le Fanu Park, (The Lawns) are unplayable by Dublin City Council, often days in advance of a game on the weekend if there is any heavy rain during mid week.

The only available public astro pitches in Ballyfermot are at the Leisure Centre which only has pitches suitable for five a side games. Slots for these pitches are also highly in demand with multiple clubs in need of facilities.

The council tarmacked over the only public astro pitch late last year in Cherry Orchard on health and safety grounds and aim to offer a new pitch once the Cherry Orchard Park development is completed.

This offers no short term solution however as the project is set to be finished by 2027 at the earliest and could reasonably take longer than that depending on how it progresses.

Other possible pitches in south west Dublin include Airlie Park in Lucan and Sean Walsh Park in Tallaght with neither being reasonably close to Ballyfermot and all facing huge competition for slots from other local clubs within the area.

The current state of affairs is not sustainable with Kavanagh speaking of a number of changes that need to be made, regarding facilities as well as approach to the underage game.

"With the winter leagues and the summer leagues you have kids playing matches in the worst weather with matches constantly getting called off. It makes no sense. I'm the manager of the Over 35s team and our season starts this week. It's a lot easier to tell a 35 year old that there isn't a game on at the week. We'll have 20 games this season and if two got called off I'd be surprised."

Peas earn bragging rights after Rovers win

SHAMROCK Rovers hosted Peamount at Tallaght Stadium last Saturday afternoon in a game which saw the visitors run out as 2-0 winners, *reports Michael Howley.*

Rovers threatened more throughout the opening periods of the game but it was Peamount who managed to break the deadlock in the 30th minute mark.

A free kick looped into the box from the halfway line saw a scramble in the Rover's area with former Rovers academy player Sophie Byrne getting on the end of the ball and putting her side 1-0 up in the game.

The score at the interval would be 1-0 but Peamount would double their lead immediately after the resumption of the game.

After being put through on goal by an excellent pass from Aoife Murphy O'Connor, Sorcha Melia's initial shot was saved by former teammate Amanda Budden but she was able to get on the end of the rebound to poke home the finish and double the lead for the Peas.

Rovers would wither away for the remainder of the half and frustrations would show as Roisin McGovern was given her marching orders for a second bookable offence in the 87th minute bringing them down to just 10 players.



Ella Kelly gets in a tackle during the Shamrock Rovers match with Peamount United in Tallaght Stadium.
Photos by Ava Butler



Lauryn O'Callaghan clears her lines for Shamrock Rovers
Photos by Ava Butler

Shamrock Rovers manager James O'Callaghan spoke of his side's performance after the game.

"I think when we conceded the second goal the heads dropped. Credit to Peamount they are a good side but maybe if we had been more clinical with our finishing it could have been a different game."

"Conceding straight away in the second half killed our momentum and it just proved too difficult, you've to give credit to Peamount. If you give them a two goal lead they are very hard to peg back."

Rovers find themselves up against Sligo this coming week while Peamount will host Waterford.

Ballyowen topple AGP in cup

BALLYOWEN CELTIC made the short trip to AGP FC for their UCFL Prime Awards Cup clash and registered a 4-1 win in the process, *reports John Mooney.*

The Celts got off to a dream start with two goals in a minute through Sven-Beta Biansumba and Daniel Oncea, before five minutes had elapsed, but AGP hit back with one of their own in the 13th minute when Cillian Doyle found the back of the net.

No more goals until the second half and it was the visitors who regained their two goal advantage when Conor Shortt netted after 60 minutes, while Biansumba completed their scoring with two minutes remaining.

IN THE UCFL/AUL Division 3 **Glenmalure Rovers** missed out on three points, when Old Bawn Athletic's Charlie Madden scored a 94th minute equaliser to share the spoils in Walkinstown Park.

Maden had opened the Bawns account in the 22nd minute, but Clayton Harte levelled the tie in the 41st minute.

Nathan O'Reilly-Flynn scored what looked like the winner in the 88th minute, but Madden had other ideas and he ensured the Bawn went home with a point.

IT'S ALL GO in the UCFL Division 3B as **Ballyowen Celtic** 2nds, Decies Celtic and Newlane are hot on the heels of leaders Stamullen FC.

All three have games in hand over the leaders, and it will be very interesting to see who comes out on top at the season's end.

Ballyowen 2nds recorded a 5-0 win over OLV FC with a hat-trick from Louis Comerford, while Isacc Mooney and Ryan Flynn got the others, Ballyfermot's Decies won 4-1 away at Harding FC where Killian Welch, two, Jason Whelan and Iwan Roberts got their goals and Newlane had a narrow 2-1 win over Larkview FC. with Calvin Watson and Pablo Flores Santamaria getting their goals.

THE RACE for the runner up slot in the UCFL Division 3C is now firmly in **Clondalkin Celtic's** hands after an 8-0 away win over Glasnaion FC 2nds.

The title is heading to Ronanstown FC 2nds so the runner up spot is on the cards and the Celts have a five point lead over Firhouse United in third, who have played two games more.

Adam Kinsella and David O'Connor-Brennan, two each, Dylan Connors, Dylan Daly, Evan Byrne and Sean Doyle were on the scoresheet for Clondalkin.

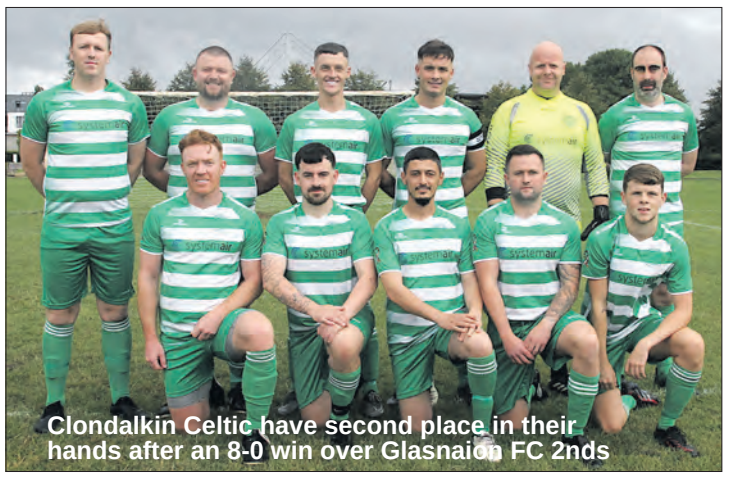
Also in that Division, AFC **Belgrave** made the trip to Dunshaughlin Youths and came home empty handed after going down on a 3-2 scoreline.

Jamie Watson had given them a 27th minute lead, but they surrendered two goals to trail 2-1 by the 50th minute.

Luckily for Belgrave they got back on level terms when the home side conceded an own goal in the 65th minute, but the lads failed to hang on for a point as a goal with nine minutes to go sealed their fate.



Glenmalure Rovers drew with Old Bawn Athletic after a late goal for Old Bawn's Charlie Madden



Clondalkin Celtic have second place in their hands after an 8-0 win over Glasnaion FC 2nds

Soccer

Keeper Ryan nets a late goal to earn a share for Sacred Heart

SACRED Heart FC produced a stunning comeback in the latest round of fixtures in the Leinster Senior 1 League after managing a 3-3 draw against Glebe North last Friday night, *reports Michael Howley.*

The team found themselves on the backfoot early on in the game and at half time Sacred Heart were down by two goals.

In the second half that deficit would be increased to three as Ollie Hamzat scored his second of the game for the away side.

Hearts were not defeated yet however and excuse the pun the side Heart's heart was evidently on display as the game entered into the final ten minutes or so.

They worked their way back into the game and began taking control of possession and eventually made it count as Brandon Brooks poked home from a delivery into the box courtesy of captain Josh Stapleton.

This kickstarted a wave of optimism within the side as they continued to press Glebe who all of a sudden found themselves firmly on the backfoot in the game.

Leon O'Brien caused problems all game for the opposition and continued to do so showing great skill and composure to set up Mike Adebambo who made no mistake and fired home to turn the score 3-2 in the 87th minute.

From then on, Hearts smelled blood in the water and produced wave after wave of relentless pressure on Glebe North.

Glebe goalkeeper Tobiasz Kowal did well to keep his side ahead producing several fine saves in the dying minutes of the game.

It would be the Sacred Heart goalkeeper Ryan Cosgrove who provided the real difference maker however.

With a throw-in in their favour and nothing left to lose, Cosgrove joined the attack in a final push which saw the keeper end up converting a looping shot from the edge of the box to seal a point for his side.

Hoops return to Tallaght with victory over Galway

SHAMROCK Rovers marked their return to Tallaght Stadium last Friday night with a win against Galway United, *reports Michael Howley.*

After winning two and drawing two of their previous four games, Rovers were in need of a win to kick start their expected momentum headed into the season.

Rovers dominated attacking proceedings throughout the first half with the likes of Jack Byrne and Adam Brennan causing plenty of problems for the Galway defence through skillful passing or sheer outright pace.

Galway offered little going forward and aside from a wayward shot from distance by Ed McCarthy, they did not trouble the Rovers goal whatsoever.

It took until the 40th minute for Rovers to finally break the deadlock with Corey O Sullivan's pass drifting through the Galway box unchecked before an unmarked Danny Grant fired home from close range leaving no chance for the keeper.

The second half would be uneventful for the most part, Galway would again be limited to taking their shots from range, failing to offer any real attacking output, though Rovers themselves did not threaten the Galway goal frequently.

Half chances from Graham Burke and Adam Brennan were all they had to show for up until the 85th minute when Aaron Green curled a shot into the far left corner to double the lead, thanks to an excellent pass from John O'Sullivan.

The result keeps Rovers within touching distance of the top and after Bohemians only managed a draw at home to Dundalk, The Hoops find themselves just three points behind their cross city rivals.

Rovers have a new look squad this season with several young players bolstering the squad, the two assisters from Friday night's game Corey O'Sullivan and John O'Sullivan.



Shamrock Rovers Danny Grant takes on the Galway defence and (inset): Aaron Greene from Kilnamanagh celebrates after scoring Rovers second goal
Photos by George Kelly

Manager Stephen Bradley spoke on the wave of young talent currently in the club.

"This has been planned for some time, the sort of remake of the team. It's nearly a new squad, a new team, and it's really important we've done that over the last 12 months.

"What we didn't want was to just continue what we had with success and success, and then have a big shock, and having to change the squad.

"You're doing that while still trying to win, and developing by mixing the young and the old."

Rovers now take a break ahead of the international break before returning to action with a game against Shelbourne on the sixth of April.

Pat's bag seven points from nine

ST PATRICK'S Athletic kept up their second place position in the league as they defeated Waterford 2-0 away from home on Friday night, *reports Michael Howley.*

Currently without a win, Waterford looked to be a shaken team on the day as a basic defensive error caused Pat's to gain the lead in the 28th minute courtesy of an own goal.

Romal Palmer would attempt to add to the lead throughout the remainder of the half but would find himself unable to do so with the score still reading 1-0 at the interval.

The second half would see Pats continue to press, searching and probing for another goal. Kian Leavy, who was making his 100th appearance for the Saints, came close on a number of occasions with Aidan Keena also threatening.

Luke Turner would be the man to add to Pat's tally, nodding home a goalward effort from Keena in the 69th minute.

The Saints would see out the victory, picking up a clean sheet in the process. The result leaves them second in the table with just a single point between them and first place Bohemians.

Manager Stephen Kenny spoke on the performance after the game.

"We're very pleased and I can't praise the players highly enough.

"To take seven points from nine in the last week is terrific form, but it's the attitude of the players that's absolutely first class.

"As a group, I feel that they have a great integrity and to take 16 points out of 18 out of that latest run of fixtures is brilliant.

"We're delighted to get the win over a Waterford side that never stopped.

"Maybe we could have shown more quality in the first half in the final third and probably got a fortuitous first goal to a degree, but to be fair to the Waterford goalkeeper, he pulled off some incredible saves."

The former Ireland boss also heaped praise onto Kian Leavy.

""His attitude is unbelievable and he just never stops.

"He is relentless and has a desire to keep going, which is a great trait to have.

"For one so young, it's terrific for him to reach 100 games for the club.

"He is a joy to work with and has a desire to improve to be the best that he can be."



St Patrick's Athletic captain Joe Redmond from Kilnamanagh led his side to victory over Waterford
Photos by Matthew Lysaght

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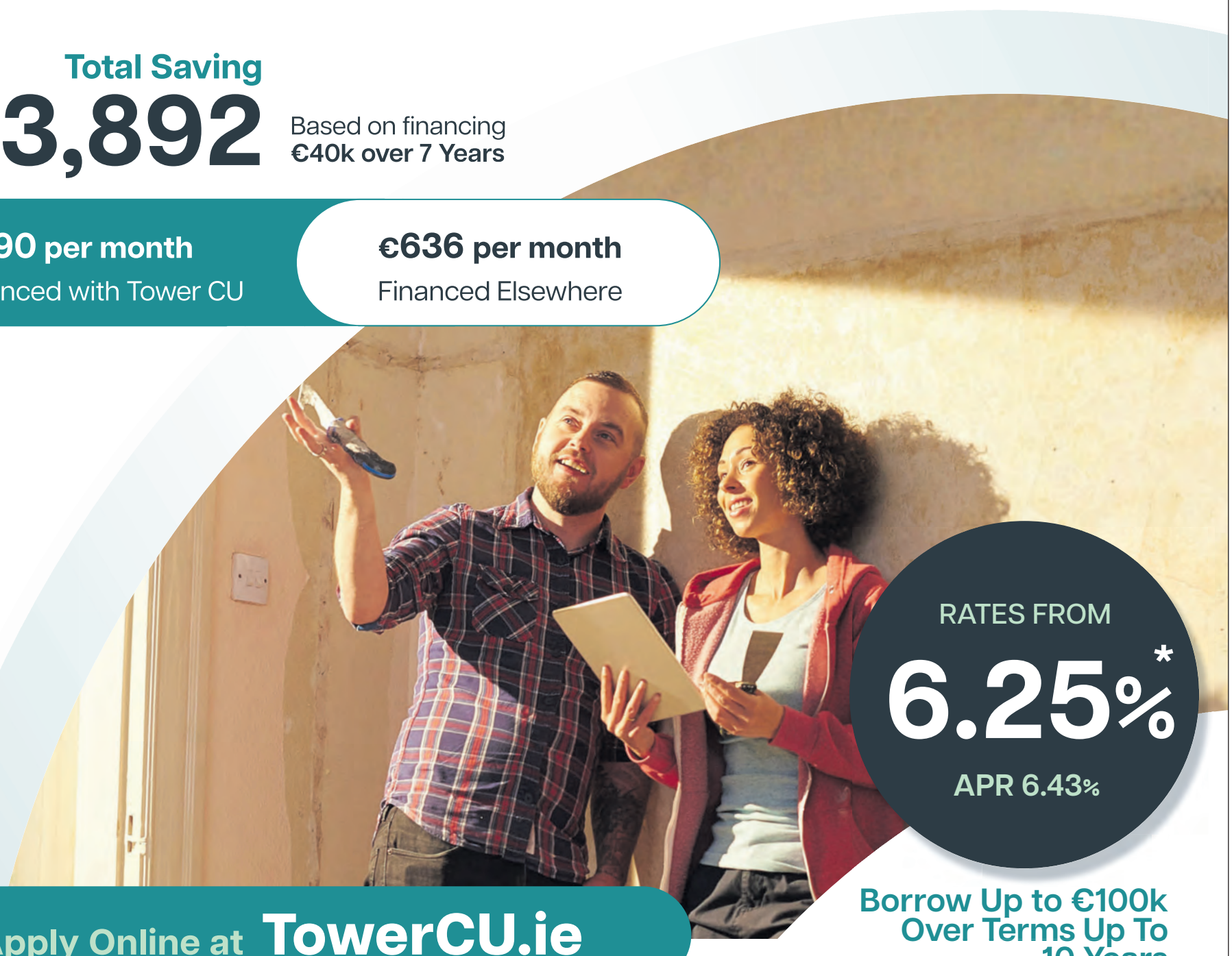
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